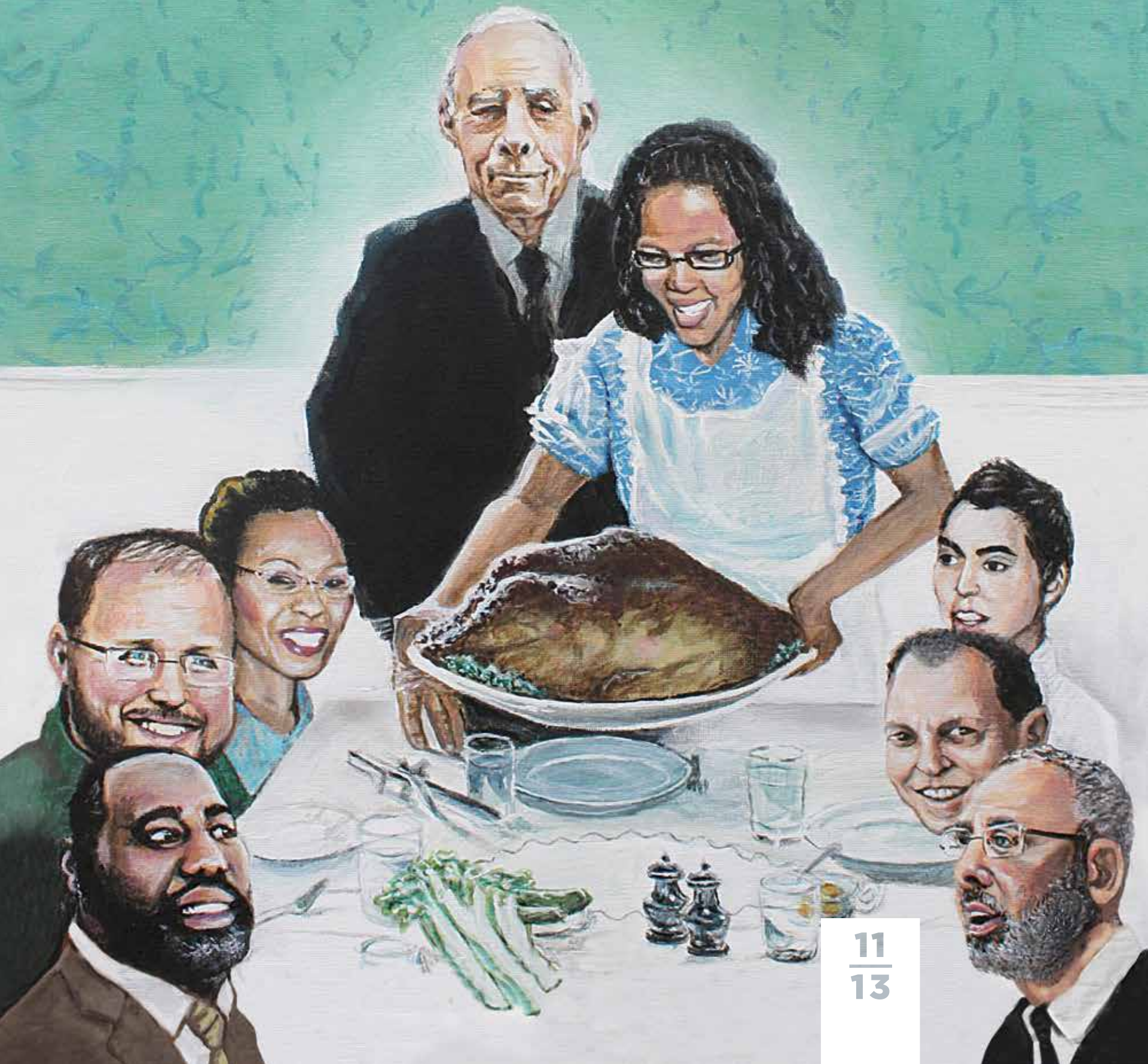


# THE BURG



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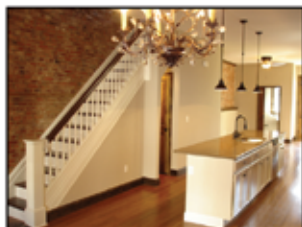
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- 12. AROUND TOWN
- 14. DOING GOOD
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BUSINESS

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GOOD EATS

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

"It was the season of light, it was the season of darkness."

That phrase is one of Charles Dickens' famous dichotomies as he opens his classic novel, "A Tale of Two Cities." And it captures well this time of year as we enter the two-month holiday season, attempting to beat back the darkness with celebration and light.

In this spirit, our November issue contains several holiday-related pieces, including a recipe feature that takes traditional autumn ingredients and transforms them into very modern dishes. Not to be outdone, Rosemary weighs in with her own take on a Thanksgiving dinner staple, fortified, as usual, with a personal story that adds deeper meaning to the dish.

Otherwise, there's this little thing called an election this month. Harrisburg doesn't change mayors very often and, when we do, it tends to be a contentious process. To help voters with information and opinion, we have numerous columns and features devoted to the Nov. 5 contest.

But perhaps you're not interested in the race or our take on it. That's fine! Feel free to skip right to our stories on music, theater, business, schools, etc. We even have a few lengthy pieces to provide an escape from this month's onslaught of food, football and, if need be, family. And if you're headed out of town this holiday, please bring along a copy of TheBurg so you can share with your relations "the best of times" and "the worst of times," the "wisdom" and "foolishness," the "hope" and "despair" of the place you call home.

LAWRANCE BINDA  
Editor-in-Chief

GENERAL AND LETTERS

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# THE HARRISBURG MODEL

*This city is evolving from poster child of distress to model of success.*

BY J. ALEX HARTZLER

## HARRISBURG BEGINS PLANNING PROCESS

Harrisburg last month kicked off an 18-month effort to draft a new comprehensive plan by holding the first of more than 20 planned public meetings.

The updating of the city's comprehensive plan and the development of a housing strategy are two initiatives included in the city's Harrisburg Strong recovery plan. The comprehensive plan will address many elements that have far-reaching effects on Harrisburg's future, such as land use, housing, infrastructure and community facilities, said Mayor Linda Thompson.

The city has hired a planning and community development firm, Mullin & Loneragan Associates, to assist with the preparation and adoption of the comprehensive plan, while the economic development element of the plan will be conducted with support from the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce & CREDC.

Earlier this year, the city began preparations for the planning effort by establishing a steering committee that will guide the comprehensive plan. To date, the committee has met twice with Mullin & Loneragan staff to help develop a scope of work for the comprehensive plan.

The launch of the process to develop a new comprehensive plan was not without controversy.

At the first public meeting, former mayoral candidate Nevin Mindlin asserted that City Council, not the administration, was required by statute to initiate changes to the comprehensive plan.

City Council President Wanda Williams later said that she agreed with Mindlin's view and would take steps to secure the council's involvement. Ultimately, City Council will have to approve changes to the comprehensive plan.

In addition, as of press time, City Controller Dan Miller had not yet signed off on the contract with Mullin & Loneragan.

## CITY NEARLY OUT OF MONEY AGAIN

Harrisburg will run out of money by year-end unless the city quickly completes key elements of its financial recovery plan.

City Council attorney Neil Grover last month warned council members that they must quickly pass legislation that will lead to the sale of the city's incinerator and the long-term lease of its parking assets.

The Harrisburg Strong recovery plan is expected to refill the city's nearly empty coffers so it can meet payroll and pay its vendors.

However, first, the council must finish approving enabling legislation. Afterwards, the parking and incinerator deals must close and the related bonds must be marketed and sold, a lengthy process that could bleed into next year.

Harrisburg has nearly run out of money every year for the past three years. In the end, it has been able to continue to operate, but only because it stopped payment on its general obligation bonds and cobbled together several last-minute fixes.

The government shutdown and subsequent debate in Washington, D.C., over whether or not to raise the debt ceiling has consumed our national conversation this past month. As Floyd Norris, writing in the New York Times, points out in a fascinating economic history of the United States since Franklin D. Roosevelt, the debate is really over whether the country will make the single biggest economic mistake in our history and give up our unprecedented economic advantage around the world all because of a political minority's opposition over how to run our health care system. He points out that, while an involuntary default is not possible (the country can print its own money to pay its bonds), a voluntary default would be equally, if not more, devastating for our country and the world economy.

Political acrimony, it seems, has become the norm in our nation's capital and has replaced true policy debates with mere political sport. Judging from the latest opinion polls, citizens around the country are not impressed or amused by this inability to govern, sending approval ratings of Congress to their lowest level on record.

In Harrisburg, however, we have found a different model for solving our fiscal crisis. Reasonable Republicans, led by the top elected Republican in Pennsylvania, Gov. Tom Corbett, worked together—through the receiver Bill Lynch—with reasonable Democrats in a primarily Democratic city to craft the Harrisburg Strong Plan. Importantly, Mayor Linda Thompson negotiated on behalf of the citizens of Harrisburg and was joined by all seven Democrats on City Council in adopting the plan.

Our governor could have certainly ignored a city where he received few votes, but he did not. The mayor could have refused to compromise or work with a “Republican, state-appointed” receiver, but she did not. City Council took its time and sought independent advice, but unanimously embraced the plan. All realized the need to work together for the betterment of our citizens. Others in the state legislature and county government played their important rolls, again in a bipartisan effort.

The beginning of a Harrisburg turnaround story has not gone unnoticed in the national press. Articles touting the plan have appeared in such news outlets as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Barron's, Reuters, The Bond Buyer (which I have to admit, I have not previously read) and many others. While Harrisburg, for years, has been on the receiving end of numerous articles and even jokes as a symbol of municipal crisis, the tide is now turning. One analysis in Barron's stated, “[A]ssuming approval, this plan will stand as a strong example of a collaborative approach to dealing with extreme municipal fiscal distress.”

This national attention is important for our city and our region. Being seen not as the nation's fiscal basket case, but as a city of reasonable people who can solve their problems through compromise and negotiation can only reflect positively on all of us. It may be too soon to declare “compromise” and “ability to work together” as our regional export, but a case is certainly building.

So what are the elements of “the Harrisburg model” that the rest of the country could learn from? Many will parse through the process, and a complete history will emerge only down the road and be judged, no doubt in large part, on where we go from here. However, I believe that two key elements will be a part of any historical accounting: trust and the desire to solve a public policy problem without concern for personal political gain.

*Trust.* The governor's hiring of Gen. Bill Lynch after David Unkovic resigned brought continued confidence to all sides and reaffirmed a belief that the state was serious about finding a solution that works. Regardless of any preconceived notions about others around the table, the general's appointment caused all sides to behave responsibly and to negotiate in good faith. By all accounts, the receiver and his affable, open, no-nonsense, get-the-job-done style was crucial to bringing and keeping all players at the table. Everyone there could trust that, if they compromised on key points—which they all had to do—the general was going to do all he could to keep the others there as well.

*Policy, not politics.* There are few parallels between a city with \$400 million in municipal debt and a nation facing \$16 trillion in national debt. However, the manner in which our elected officials approached both problems is revealing. Here in Harrisburg, the officials did what we elected them to do: sit down, debate in public and in private, and negotiate in good faith to solve a problem. They did not hold daily or hourly press conferences about who was to blame and how no progress was being made because of the other side. They understood, instead, that failure to find compromise could cripple our city for years to come—much like failure in Washington could cripple our national and even global economy. Washington could do worse than to consult with the folks in Harrisburg who helped us set aside personal politics for sound policy and positive outcomes.

The final, crucial step in all of this, of course, is for the plan to be finalized and then properly implemented over the next four years. To do that, we need to elect a mayor who has strongly endorsed the Harrisburg Strong Plan and pledged to carry it out for the benefit of all citizens rather than one who, like a tea party legislator opposed to Obamacare, has worsened our problems through acrimony, lawsuits and petty games while clinging selfishly, stubbornly and, against all reason, to delusions of bankruptcy. I am optimistic that Harrisburg residents will make the right choice on Nov. 5.

*J. Alex Hartzler is publisher of TheBurg.*





Hickok Mansion

## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS GIVEN GO-AHEAD

Numerous projects in Harrisburg are slated to get off the ground after City Council gave them the green light last month.

The council unanimously approved the following land development plans:

- A major expansion of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) building at 211 N. Front St. onto two adjacent lots. The \$11.5 million project includes the construction of an eight-story addition, the renovation of the historic Hickok Mansion at 201 N. Front St. and the demolition of a mid-century addition to the mansion.
- An update to the building plan for the Susquehanna Art Museum in Midtown to include the creation of a sculpture garden at 1415 N. 3rd St. Work already has begun on the \$6.2 million project at the site of the former Keystone/Fulton bank building at N. 3rd and Calder streets. With the approval, SAM will raze the existing dilapidated building at 1415 N. 3rd and use the parcel for a construction staging area before turning it into a sculpture garden upon completion of the new museum, which itself includes the old bank building and a 25,280-square-foot addition.
- A new building expected to house an Italian-style restaurant and wine bar at the corner of State and N. 2nd streets, developed by WCI Partners. Under the current plan, the restaurant would feature a single story with a mezzanine for about 60 diners, focused on gourmet pizza.
- The conversion of vacant office space into 14 one-bedroom apartments at 128-130 Locust St., developed by WCI Partners. The adjacent buildings, about two centuries old, were originally designed as houses before being turned into office space many years ago.



Future blues club

## NEW BUSINESSES ON CAMERON STREET

Cameron Street continues its slow evolution into a nightlife district with the recent approval of liquor licenses for two new businesses.

Last month, the Harrisburg City Council approved the transfer of a liquor license for the Blue Front Lounge, which plans to move from Steelton to 819 S. Cameron St. in December or January.

Owner Richard Hefelfinger said he will transform the first floor of the 8,000-square-foot, circa-1940 brick building into a blues club with a full restaurant. The second floor will feature a pub-type atmosphere with an area devoted to darts and dart tournaments, he said.

Hefelfinger said he decided to move because the building is vastly larger than the snug spot on Front Street where Blue Front Lounge has been located for three years. The new location also has ample parking and is not in a residential area.

Over the years, the property has had a variety of uses. It once belonged to Bishop McDevitt High School and long housed American Quick Print. It sold in March for \$240,000 to local developer and businessman Phil Dobson, who said he is a partner in the business.

Just down the road, Dobson also bought the site of the former Harrisburg River Rescue and plans to transform it into an entertainment and events space called the Main Stage Events Center.

Dobson said he expects to attract major acts to a new performing arts theater in the 23,000-square-foot building at 1119 S. Cameron St., which sold in May for \$385,000. The space will be able to hold 1,200 to 1,500 people and should open by mid-2014, he said.

Dobson, an owner of Savannah's on Hanna, said he is optimistic about the Cameron Street corridor because it's just off Route 83 and has ample parking, both necessary for attracting people from greater Harrisburg and beyond.

"If I want to be a regional destination, I have to be in a location that is easily accessible," he said. "Here, you are literally a block from the highway."

He added that he hoped his new ventures would encourage people to come to Harrisburg not just to listen to music or compete in a dart tournament, but to eat, visit and stay.

City Council approved the transfer of a liquor license into Harrisburg for the proposed entertainment venue in September.

## CITY APPLIES FOR FUNDS

Roads, bikes and firefighters would benefit from several funding applications authorized last month by the Harrisburg City Council.

The council directed the administration to apply for:

- A \$1.6 million federal grant that would fund the hiring of 10 new full-time firefighters over the next two years. The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program is designed to help localities fortify the ranks of their trained firefighters.
- A \$350,000 low-interest loan from the Dauphin County Infrastructure Bank for various paving projects in Bellevue Park, on S. 17th Street in south Harrisburg and on Hale Avenue near the city line.
- A \$3,200 matching grant to participate in the Regional Bicycle Connections program with several other municipalities in Dauphin and Lebanon counties. The goal of the grant and program is to create safe, connected bicycle routes to promote cycling.

## BILL SEEKS FULL FUNDING

Harrisburg's state lawmakers introduced a bill last month that would guarantee the city "full funding" for the emergency services it provides to the state Capitol complex.

Sen. Rob Teplitz and Rep. Patty Kim said they would seek to commit the state to an annual appropriation of at least \$5 million, which they said is the cost to Harrisburg of protecting the complex's 40 buildings and thousands of workers from fire and other emergencies. In subsequent years, the amount would be indexed to the inflation rate.

This state funding also is built into the Harrisburg Strong financial recovery plan for the city.

## COURT REJECTS MILLER OBJECTIONS

A Commonwealth Court judge last month rejected numerous objections to the Harrisburg Strong financial recovery plan filed by City Controller Dan Miller.

In her opinion, Judge Bonnie Brigance Leadbetter said that Miller filed his objections too late and that, in any case, he lacked standing to make the objections. She also said that it's vital that the plan's implementation not be delayed.

Harrisburg receiver William Lynch requested that Miller's objections be stricken. Mayor Linda Thompson, Dauphin County and several creditors backed Lynch in his response.

In his filing with the Commonwealth Court, Miller objected to the recovery plan because, he said, it relies on numerous assumptions, is incomplete and unduly burdens city taxpayers.

Miller is the Republican candidate for mayor in this month's general election.



FEES HIKED FOR BURGLAR ALARMS, FIRE SERVICES

If your burglar alarm goes off by accident, you may face a steep fee hike for the emergency response. Harrisburg City Council last month increased the charge for a second false alarm from \$10 to \$50. A third false alarm also will cost \$50, up from \$25. Fourth and fifth false alarms will cost \$100 each with charges of \$150 for each subsequent false alarm.

Council also imposed new or higher fees for a variety of services provided by the city’s Fire Bureau. For instance, the city now will charge a new \$100 fee for a one-hour bonfire or \$175 for a two-hour bonfire.

False fire alarms fees have increased from \$50 to \$150 for the third and fourth false alarm and from \$100 to \$250 for the fifth to seventh false alarms. Other fees remain the same.

Councilwoman Eugenia Smith said she would make sure that all fees related to public safety services would be posted at the city’s website, [www.harrisburgpa.gov](http://www.harrisburgpa.gov).

PHILBIN GETS OFFICIAL NOD

Robert Philbin will have a city job into early next year, as the Harrisburg City Council last month confirmed his appointment as chief operating officer through Feb. 1.

In June, Mayor Linda Thompson appointed Philbin to the post following the sudden resignation of the city’s first COO, Ricardo Mendez-Saldivia. Philbin had been acting COO since June.

Philbin, who previously served as Thompson’s spokesman, said he will return to his position as marketing and communications officer with Capital Area Transit following his stint with the city. Thompson’s term as mayor ends in January.

PARKING CHANGES FOR REILY STREET

Harrisburg has changed the parking rules for a section of Midtown to accommodate two new restaurants.

The City Council last month voted to restrict parking to two hours during weekdays on both sides of Reily Street between N. 5th and N. 6th streets and on both sides of N. 6th Street between Boyd and Reily streets.

Council members took the action so that patrons of two restaurants located within The 1500 Condominium could park more easily. Council President Wanda Williams said that state workers often have parked on these blocks all day long, preventing others from using the street spaces.

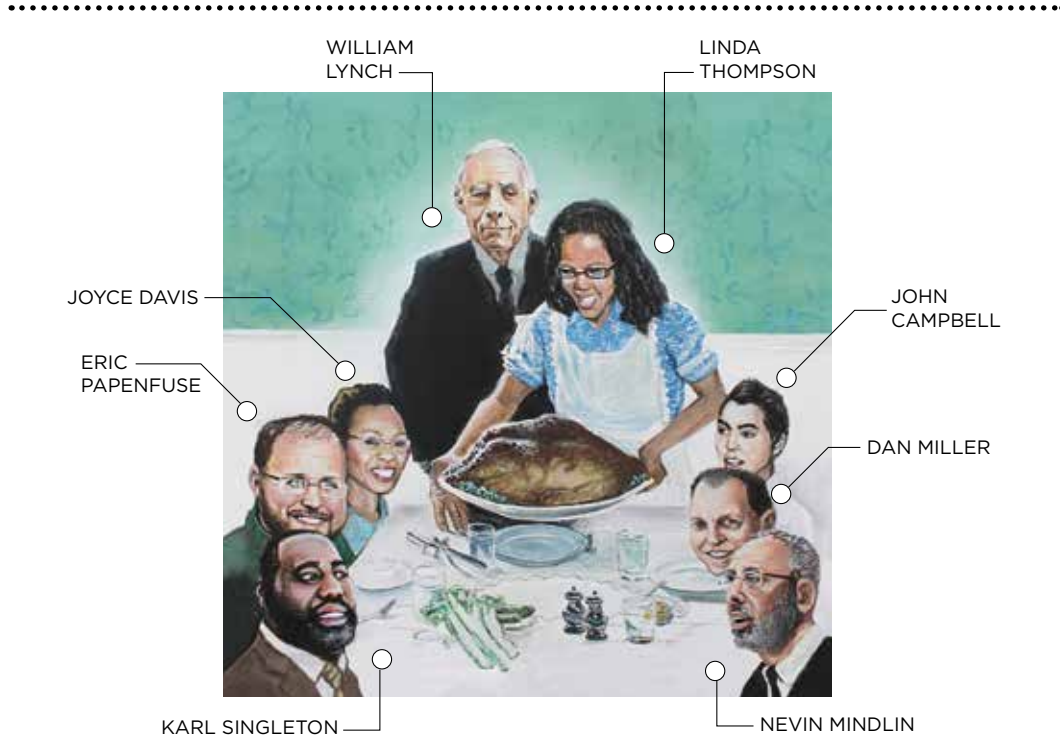
The new rules should help facilitate parking for diners at both Café 1500, which reopened recently under a new operator, and Crawdaddy’s, which moved last month into the building, relocating from two blocks away.

CHANGING HANDS

- Bellevue Rd., 2028: N. Emerick to K. Feucht, \$48,000
- Benton St., 520: J. Phillips to L. Holmes, \$69,900
- Boas St., 438: T. & E. Buda to R. Kane, \$160,000
- Conoy St., 110: S. & M. Boyle to M. & S. McLees, \$145,000
- Croyden Rd., 2986: D. Folk to PA Deals LLC, \$42,000
- Delaware St., 267: B. & A. Jennings to J. Renue, \$128,000
- Derry St., 1266: C. Lanza to D. Shah, \$34,000
- Derry St., 1950: Mussani & Co. to Next Generation Trust Services, \$50,000
- Edward Rd., 203: D. Morand to M. Gabler, \$78,900
- Fillmore St., 616: PA Deals LLC to Bholay Nath Properties LLC, \$73,000
- Green St., 2033: N. Patrick to A. Holland, \$45,000
- Green St., 3240: E. Mentzer to J. Mueller, \$109,900
- Holly St., 1944: M. Hampton to J. & B. Readinger, \$43,000
- Kensington St., 2320: J. Kramer to M. & J. Cramer, \$68,900
- Kensington St., 2436: T. & A. Teter to L. Kim, \$63,000
- Logan St., 2421: K. & G. Corker to K. Macrate, \$60,000
- Market St., 829, 1001: Patriot News Co. to Equity Trust Co., \$500,000
- Market St., 2105: M. Mettenet Trust to J. Lohlun

- & E. Ruggieri, \$103,000
- N. 2nd St., 3214: P. Harper to A. Parks & I. Silva, \$149,900
- N. 2nd St., 3224: M. Harrison to K. Petrich, \$85,000
- N. 3rd St., 2120: Fannie Mae to K. Fillingame, \$60,000
- N. 4th St., 2711: P. & M. Foltz to B. & M. Hayes, \$93,500
- N. 4th St., 3009: Bank of New York Trust Co. to P. & C. Ambrose, \$52,000
- N. 16th St., 1301: E. & P. Cumberbatch to Y. Morel-Pena, \$36,000
- N. 17th St., 99: T. Pham to J. Glick, \$47,700
- N. Front St., 1419: River Front Development Group LLC to M. Kurowski, \$189,000
- N. Front St., 1525, Unit 514: K. Alvanitakis to A. Firoozmand, \$98,500
- Pennwood Rd., 3205: R. & R. Yost to C. Lebo, \$99,000
- Rumson Dr., 261: Fannie Mae to C. & A. Davis, \$38,101
- Rumson Dr., 2991: B. Minter et al to Trusted Source Capital LLC, \$31,000
- S. 18th St., 1235: M. Phuong to M. Quinn, \$73,900
- Vernon St., 1537: T&R Property LLC to VanDoughbar Ventures LLC, \$31,250
- Vernon St., 1539: T&R Property LLC to VanDoughbar Ventures LLC, \$32,500
- Woodbine St., 220: T&R Property LLC to VanDoughbar Ventures LLC, \$33,750

Source: Dauphin County, for September property sales of more than \$30,000.



Over the years, the Simpsons, Mad Magazine and many others have parodied Norman Rockwell’s iconic Saturday Evening Post cover, “Freedom from Want.” We thought we’d put our own Harrisburg stamp on it, mashing up two of November’s most important events: the city’s mayoral race and Thanksgiving. So, we placed the major party candidates and several of their principal supporters on opposite sides of the table, with receiver William Lynch and Mayor Linda Thompson serving up the main dish to the hungry crowd. Whether you perceive the succulent bird as a symbol of city power or as just a big, fat turkey (or both) is entirely up to you.



# THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE CITY

*The Harrisburg mayor's race has said much about the candidates—and a little about us.*

BY LAWRENCE BINDA

By this point, the Harrisburg mayoral election has been analyzed, categorized, sliced, diced, sifted and puréed.

The campaign often has reflected people's own inclinations and purposes. It became like a Rorschach test, perhaps saying more about the observer than the observed.

I'm not immune from filtering the campaign through my own priorities—what I believe Harrisburg needs in terms of policy and leadership. In this spirit, I'd like to share what I perceive to be three significant strengths and weaknesses of the campaigns and candidacies. I hope these points provide some meaningful information to voters before the election or, following it, offer residents insight into how the next mayor of Harrisburg will govern.

## DAN MILLER, REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE

### STRENGTHS:

- **Service delivery:** Miller believes that the delivery of basic services is the primary function of municipal government. In my opinion, this message has been the strongest part of Miller's campaign. "It's really about the city government doing its basic functions," he said during one debate. "Let's fix the potholes, let's get the lights on, let's clean the streets, let's make Harrisburg a place where people want to live." Amen.

- **Management focus:** Related to the previous point, Miller emphasized the need to attract competent people into city government. He rightly criticized the Thompson administration for losing so many good, experienced employees who chafed at her management style. During one debate, he said, "We need competent people in city government. That's the number one priority for a Dan Miller administration." Amen again.

- **Financial experience:** During the campaign, Miller often said that the city needs a financial expert during these trying times. Conversely, his critics said that his knowledge of accounting had little in common with the complex financial issues facing the city. I conditionally agree with Miller's view. His financial background both as an accountant and as city controller represents a considerable strength, but, in the end, only if used wisely.

### WEAKNESSES:

- **Harrisburg Strong:** Long an advocate for municipal bankruptcy, Miller repeatedly condemned the Harrisburg Strong financial recovery plan in strong language because, he said, the numbers don't add up, it relies on shaky assumptions, it's a tool for Wall Street, it won't lead to a balanced budget, it rips off the poor, and it generally dooms Harrisburg to a miserable future. But he later said, as mayor, he'd work to implement it anyway. He also distanced himself from his own, 3-year-old recovery plan after daring the audience at the first mayoral debate to go read it. I find Miller's position on the city's most pressing priority to be very confusing.

- **Accountability:** I put great stock in people being responsible and accountable for their actions. Back in August, I criticized Miller after he released a two-page statement blaming other people for his loss in the Democratic primary (basically, Papenfuse and his campaign contributors). Not only did I find it odd that Miller blamed his opponent for his electoral defeat, but he and Papenfuse actually raised about the same amount of money from outside sources, albeit in different ways. In my opinion, Miller lost the primary largely because he was out-planned and out-campaigned.

- **It gets personal:** In his public life, Miller has sometimes shown a thin skin. Therefore, it's no surprise that Miller's legitimate policy differences with Mayor Linda Thompson, who

also personalizes issues, quickly turned into a bitter feud. The people of Harrisburg were the ones who suffered from the inability of the city's mayor and controller to get along.

## ERIC PAPENFUSE, DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE

### STRENGTHS:

- **Harrisburg Strong:** Papenfuse's position in favor of the Harrisburg Strong recovery plan has been clear, consistent and forceful. There is no guarantee that the Strong plan, in its complexity, will deliver everything it promises. However, I believe that it is better than other options and is far superior to bankruptcy. To help ensure success, the plan requires a leader who will embrace it fully, working every day, with conviction, with the receiver, the county, City Council and others, to implement it.

- **Positive focus:** Papenfuse ran a community-oriented campaign that was relentlessly positive. He offered an optimistic, can-do future for a city so beaten down by cynicism

and negativity. That said—Papenfuse is no Pollyanna. If things aren't going well, he can be a stern critic. He also doesn't hesitate to go on the offensive when he feels he needs to, as was witnessed several times during the mayoral debates.

- **Rock-solid campaign:** Both in the primary and general election, Papenfuse set an ambitious plan for his campaign and, each day, took one step forward to implement it. That's no small achievement, as political campaigns are long, arduous and complex, requiring meticulous planning, hard work and successful execution. Harrisburg could benefit substantially from someone who knows how to set goals then methodically move forward to achieve them.

### WEAKNESSES:

- **Too much vision?** At one moment, Papenfuse can be deeply pragmatic, the next something of an idealist. It's the latter quality that concerns me, as I see the mayor of Harrisburg as primarily an administrator who must corral his staff to deliver basic services to the people who are paying for them. In my view, loftier goals should be set aside until the city can do the fundamental things right.

- **Expansive agenda:** During debates, Papenfuse said he wants to "sell Harrisburg to the world." He also wants to recruit businesses, convince people to buy houses, reform education, investigate past wrongs, lead neighborhood visioning sessions and much more, in addition to fundamentally reforming the broken government. Papenfuse needs to whittle down his list to a core group of goals focused on the delivery of services. If the city is well run—and can achieve reasonably safe, attractive streets—the world will want to live and work here without needing to be sold on the idea.

- **Lack of government experience:** During the campaign, Papenfuse tried to compensate for his scant experience in government by emphasizing how he built an entire business—Midtown Scholar Bookstore—from scratch. He makes a fair point, as building a successful business requires a multitude of skills. That said—government

is its own beast, and this city's bureaucracy is particularly dysfunctional. Therefore, if elected, Papenfuse will face a steep learning curve and numerous challenges that some experience serving in city government may have eased.

I have one final observation about the mayoral campaign, which also reflects my wishes for this city.

During one debate, Miller, prompted by a panelist question, told a heartfelt story about first meeting Papenfuse and his wife Catherine, who, 15 years ago, were a young couple thinking of moving to Harrisburg. He saw them walking around his former neighborhood in Shipoke, invited them inside his house, told them what a wonderful city this was and encouraged them to move here. They did.

Later on in the same debate, Papenfuse said he believed that he and Miller would be able to come together, restoring a decent relationship following a bitter campaign. Given the importance of these two men in our community, I share that hope. **B**

Lawrence Binda is editor-in-chief of *TheBurg*.







## MAY HE BE THIS

*Mr. Next Mayor: Here's what  
your city needs in a leader.*

BY TARA LEO AUCHEY

**B**y the time some of you read this article, the new mayor of the city of Harrisburg will be elected.

Yet, for some of you, this article will be in your hands only a few days before the election.

So, with the Nov. 5 election either merely days away or just passed, this article serves to assist the undecided or rally the winners and losers to demand the same thing no matter who has won: good leadership for Harrisburg.

The next mayor, may he be this—cosmopolitan.

This is important for Harrisburg because, after all, Harrisburg is a city.

Not only is it a city, it's a capital city. As the chief city of Pennsylvania, it should be a prototype for innovative strategies, social ingenuity and upstanding practices.

A good leader for Harrisburg will be in tune with the rich opportunities that only the pulse and ways of a city can present. A city is a plethora of cultures, languages, faces and random conversations. It's a place for variety and choice without exclusiveness. It's a stronghold of perspectives and potential.

In the past, leaders have not realized this.

As a consequence, the city of Harrisburg has acted more like an overgrown town than a small city, which has stifled the dynamic energy of this urban place.

Harrisburg is a city, and I've said it before, and I'll say it again, "Call it a city, and it'll act like a city."

It will be important for our next mayor to embrace and foster the true essence of what a city is, should be, needs to be and can be.

May he not be this—vain.

We've had enough vanity in the mayor's office to last generations.

While anyone who wants to get into elected office has to have a healthy ego (I mean, how could anyone handle the job without it?), Harrisburg can do without the inflated sense of self-importance that has gone hand-in-hand with "The Mayor" for the past two administrations.

No more should ego triumph over common good. No more should personalities take over projects. No more totalitarianism, referring to oneself in the third person or personal taste dominating decisions.

No more.

May he do this—mind the basic services.

It's no secret that over the past decades the city's infrastructure has been allowed to dilapidate. Aside from the decrepit and neglected underground network of pipes, there are blighted buildings rotting alongside overgrown and trashed lots posted with "City on the Move" signs, a leftover public relations initiative from Mayor Stephen Reed.

Streetlights are out. Too often, it's a burnt-out bulb, but, in some places, a jagged metal stump sits where a post should be. Look into one of these orifices, and you're likely to see garbage and muck. Of the lamps that do work, many of them are covered in dirty clumps of cobwebs and insects.

Roadways are rippled with cracks, indentations and pits growing into massively deep holes where quick fixes have been the norm.

Crosswalks are faded or nonexistent. Litter and leaves clog storm drains. Overgrown trees, bushes and weeds dangerously obstruct walkways and pathetically spread over city parks.

Ordinances are ignored, police are more reactive than proactive, and it's a challenge for a resident to access clear, consistent information.

These are the daily quality-of-life issues, and, while money is always an issue, efficient management could go a long way as a remedy.

May he do this, too—use the citizens.

City government has been cut to the bare bone. Much institutional knowledge has gone or withered away in the past few years and, overall, morale is low throughout the city's halls.

Antiquated procedures and strained management have created the appearance of incompetency. Certainly, most of the city's employees are doing the best with what they have, but it's been a while since Harrisburg's government has run smoothly or efficiently.

However, there is underutilized help out there, on-call and ready to serve.

Enter city residents and stakeholders.

From volunteer cleanup crews to organizations like Lighten Up Harrisburg!, there is a wellspring of sweat equity in this city.

Instead of being regularly encouraged and called to action, though, too often the citizens have been deemed intrusive, stepping on the toes of government instead of being looked at as vital assistance.

Hopefully, this leadership attitude will be gone in the new year.

Oh, and one last thing: may the next mayor of Harrisburg not continually confuse the public.

With Reed, it was a shell game and grandiose promises. With Thompson, it's been a barrage of announcements and partially executed measures.

Despite a parade of press conferences out of both administrations, citizens are frequently asking, "What's going on?"

Our former mayors seem either to not know or not want to tell, holding truth too close to the vest or spewing falsity all at once.

This public perplexity leads too easily to apathy, the very thing that will cause the ruin of the city.

To sum up...

This election may not yield an ideal leader or even an excellent one for that matter. Harrisburg might not be quite there yet.

But what we do get is a renewed chance to demand "good" based on the standards above, and that's good enough. For now. **B**

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*Tara Leo Auchey is creator and editor of today's the day Harrisburg.  
www.todaysthe dayhbg.com*





# THE NEXT MAYOR OF HARRISBURG

FROM FINANCIAL RECOVERY TO THE  
ROLE OF MAYOR, THE TWO CANDIDATES  
GIVE VOTERS A CLEAR CHOICE.

BY PAUL BARKER

*In recent decades, the general election for Harrisburg mayor has been something of a snoozer. Most of the action rested in the primary, where this heavily Democratic city nominated the clear favorite come November. Could this year be different?*

*Indeed, it's been a fascinating race.*

*The primary saw the late entry of businessman Eric Papenfuse, who quickly lapped incumbent Mayor Linda Thompson and her principal challenger, city Controller Dan Miller, to capture the Democratic nomination.*

*Then, just as the Democrats were rallying around their candidate, the saga took another turn. Independent Nevin Mindlin, regarded as the remaining credible alternative to Papenfuse, was tossed off the ballot following a petition challenge.*

*So up stepped Miller, who, while losing the Democratic nomination, had won the unchallenged Republican nomination by getting 196 write-in votes. With Mindlin off the ballot, Miller declared himself back in, setting up another Papenfuse/Miller contest for the Nov. 5 ballot.*

*To help Harrisburg voters, we asked each candidate four questions that we believe are relevant to the city at this time. We hope their answers, which we limited to 1,200 words for each candidate, will help voters who remain undecided make this important decision.*

*—Lawrance Binda*



**DAN MILLER**  
**REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE**

It was a Thursday in early August, and City Controller Dan Miller, who only days before had announced the end of his mayoral campaign, was appalled by what was happening to the November ballot. The nominating petitions of independent candidates Nate Curtis and Nevin Mindlin had been challenged in court. If the judge agreed, Eric Papenfuse's only competition on Election Day would be write-in candidate Lewis Butts, who had reaped a mere 64 votes in the primary.

In a sense, it was politics as usual in Harrisburg, a solidly Democratic city where races are usually foregone conclusions by November. But Miller, who had lost by a 6-percent margin in May, saw a political opportunity. "It's a civic responsibility for me to get on the ballot," he said the next day at the county Bureau of Elections, where, with his \$25 filing fee in hand, he posed for photos before accepting the Republican nomination. "Let's have a choice."

In the weeks since, that choice has sharpened. On Aug. 26, the state-appointed receiver, William B. Lynch, submitted his updated recovery plan for the city of Harrisburg. In the wake of that 350-page behemoth's unveiling, the public sphere clamored with voices of celebration and dissent. Where Papenfuse joined the chorus of approval, no one objected more forcefully than Miller, who claimed he saw in the plan's various forecasts and provisions the same shaky accounting, and the same abuse of the local taxpayer, that had afflicted city government for years.

Miller, a native of the area, is a partner at Miller Dixon Drake, an accounting firm at the corner of N. 2nd and North streets that he founded after he was fired from his

previous job for being gay. (The ordeal was the subject of a lengthy profile in the New Yorker.) In 1994, he ran for a Democratic Party committeeman post and won. In 2005, he was elected to City Council, and four years later, to his current post of city controller—in a race during which, it must be observed, his opponent was successfully thrown off the ballot by a challenge to his nominating petition.

On council, Miller had been a fervent critic of Mayor Steve Reed's intemperate borrowing. As controller, he found himself in repeated squabbles with Reed's successor, Mayor Linda Thompson. The acrimony, over issues such as the city's direct deposit system, the Act 47 process and the sale of museum artifacts, lasted through the entirety of Thompson's tenure. It even extended to the virtual sphere, where Miller maintained a website for his office separate from the city's.

The site, which contains a useful trove of documents about city finances, reflects the common thread that runs through much of Miller's career. His leadership style may look stubborn or stalwart, depending on where one stands. It can be summed up in a slogan that, like many slogans, carries a double edge: if Dan Miller wants a thing done, he's going to do it himself.

## MILLER Q&A

**Q.** *We'll start with a broad one. What do you think is the proper role of Harrisburg's municipal government, and how do you perceive the mayor's function within it?*

**A.** The role of any municipal government is to serve the needs of its citizens in the most efficient and effective way possible. That means providing basic city services that enhance the quality of life for the entire community. The mayor serves as the chief executive of the municipality and is therefore responsible for establishing an achievable vision, appointing staff who share that vision and who work cooperatively toward its implementation. The mayor is also responsible for ensuring that the entire workforce understands his or her goals and expectations, and that success can only be achieved by their cooperation and dedication to their jobs. By leading a workforce with high morale and pride in their accomplishments, improving basic city services and operating in an open and transparent manner, the mayor establishes an image for the city as a welcoming place to live, work and play.

**Q.** *One of the problems that the current mayor has confronted is an inability to retain city employees. As mayor, how would you ensure that the city keep and attract top-notch professionals to perform its various services?*

**A.** I have had to confront this issue for the past 20 years as a small business owner, city controller and consultant to hundreds of businesses. To attract the best and the brightest, we must offer a competitive salary. Beyond that, we must treat people fairly, with respect, and make them feel valued. I have had great success retaining employees in living wage jobs. Three of my four full-time associates have been with me 11 or more years. As controller, I was able to recruit the most knowledgeable finance professional in city government. We need to create an atmosphere where city employees feel appreciated and get satisfaction from doing their jobs serving the public. By achieving those goals, we will be able to attract and retain the high quality employees the city seeks to staff its resurgence.

**Q.** *If you are elected, what will be your top three priorities upon taking office?*

**A.** The next mayor's highest priority must be taking steps to improve public safety and ensure delivery of basic city services in an efficient and effective manner. While the mayor has no direct control over the school district, it is essential to advocate for and improve city education as much as possible. He must provide steady fiscal stewardship while making the city cleaner, greener and more attractive. He must be a vocal advocate for the best interest of the residents of the city of Harrisburg within the context of the receiver's plan.

**Q.** *Perhaps the most significant development since the mayoral primary has been the unveiling, and subsequent confirmation in court, of the state-appointed receiver's recovery plan for the city. What positives and/or negatives do you see in the Harrisburg Strong Plan, and how do you view the next mayor's role with respect to the plan's implementation?*

**A.** The next mayor will be required to execute the terms and conditions of the receiver's plan. It brings much appreciated state financial aid to the city but does so at a very high cost. The optimistic financial projections on which the plan is founded would not meet the standard set by most financial professionals. The loss of so much future self-determination about infrastructure investment and economic development is a major concern for me and should be of concern to every citizen. I have substantial concerns about the plan's long-term economic viability. Creditors, as willing participants in the incinerator retrofit financing deal at the root of many of the city's financial woes, should be required to make as many concessions as the city's taxpayers are being asked to make.

Despite these problems, the plan will have to be implemented in the most advantageous manner benefiting Harrisburg residents. This will require a skilled financial professional to balance the budget within confined limitations. I am the only candidate with the knowledge, experience and ability to achieve this goal.





## ERIC PAPENFUSE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE

Upon winning the Democratic primary in May, Eric Papenfuse, who had seen his share of electoral losses, seemed poised at last for success. He had run unsuccessfully for City Council in 2009, and again for county commissioner in 2011, where he lost by a mere 12 votes in the primary. But on the night of May 21, when he announced his victory at the Midtown Scholar bookstore, the business he built over the past dozen years, he all but assumed the mantle of mayor-elect. After saluting his former opponents, he spoke of plans for transition, including a series of public meetings on the city's most pressing issues.

By the end of the summer, Papenfuse's general election victory had begun to look less certain. Dan Miller returned to the race on the Republican ticket, taking with him a slice of traditionally Democratic voters. The late write-in candidacy of Aaron Johnson threatened to gobble up another chunk of that constituency. Meanwhile, the race began to be dominated by another development: the release of the receiver's financial recovery plan.

In October, at the Harrisburg Hope debate, the opening question reflected the newly polarized terrain: were the candidates for or against Harrisburg Strong? The recovery plan had become a test of the candidates' sympathies, which were measured by the same bitterness, hopes and suspicions that had defined city politics for years.

Papenfuse, meanwhile, tried to steer the focus to the issues he'd outlined in May. He held his public meetings on crime, blight, economic development and education, which he tended to conduct in a classroom style. The meeting on blight was essentially a two-hour policy discussion, where a handful of experts fielded residents' questions on trash, utility rates and sewer mapping.

Papenfuse, a Baltimore native, has been increasingly involved in Harrisburg politics since settling in the city with his family in 1999. In his previous campaigns, he was a vocal critic of former Mayor Steve Reed. On more than one occasion, he testified about predatory loans knowingly entered into by the Harrisburg Authority, a process he witnessed as a member of the Authority's board. His mayoral campaign, in contrast, has been defined by a technocratic approach. He has built his campaign around a promise to govern the city with informed, forward-looking initiatives.

Of course, the dominant issues of a political contest are rarely a candidate's to choose. Since May, Papenfuse has had to navigate a series of surprises. Months ago, he expected to face independent Nevin Mindlin; he now finds himself in a heated rematch with Miller, who has portrayed him as an ally of moneyed interests and Harrisburg's familiar power brokers. It must be a frustrating reversal for Papenfuse, long the crusading outsider. His challenge, in this fractious capital, is classically political: to run the campaign he always wanted while standing on shifting ground.

## PAPENFUSE Q&A

**Q.** *We'll start with a broad one. What do you think is the proper role of Harrisburg's municipal government, and how do you perceive the mayor's function within it?*

**A.** Harrisburg's municipal government's primary role is simple: to serve the city's residents. The municipal government fulfills this responsibility by ensuring people within the city limits are able to live and work in safety and security. To effectively carry out its mission, the city needs a mayor with a broad vision, one who fully embraces the importance of collaborative relations with neighboring townships and counties.

As head of city government, Harrisburg's mayor is the face of the city. The mayor sets the proper tone and atmosphere to nurture pride in our history and hope for our future. Harrisburg needs positive, inclusive leadership now more than ever as it emerges from financial and political catastrophe. As mayor, I will provide that leadership and create a new image for our city at home and throughout the nation. Above all, I will ensure Harrisburg's municipal government stays connected to the people, transparent in governing and prudent in management of our budget and resources.

Harrisburg needs a visionary leader in City Hall to take advantage of the second chance the city has been given through the "Strong Plan." Harrisburg needs a leader who can do more than simply add and subtract. We need someone who can inspire people and galvanize a community. As mayor, I will inspire a new birth in our city as well as ensure the efficient functioning of municipal government.

Harrisburg needs the kind of leadership I can provide. It needs a leader who understands the importance of promoting business and investment to create jobs and provide goods and

services. It needs a leader passionate about promoting quality education for our children as the only path to economic vitality. And it needs a leader who will unite the diverse communities and cultures within our city so that we all thrive.

**Q.** *One of the problems that the current mayor has confronted is an inability to retain city employees. As mayor, how would you ensure that the city keep and attract top-notch professionals to perform its various services?*

**A.** Any successful businessman knows the best way to retain quality employees is to pay them fairly and treat them well. It's no different for city employees. They need to be paid fairly, treated with respect and inspired to serve the people of Harrisburg. As a businessman, I know that my enterprise is only as good as the people who keep it running. I also know the importance of maintaining high morale, and the Midtown Scholar bookstore has been lauded as one of the best places to work in Harrisburg. Of course, as we nurture high morale, it is important to address the serious salary issues that impede attracting the best and brightest to Harrisburg. We must find creative ways to increase salaries for professional positions in city government while not overburdening taxpayers. I am investigating ways to enlist the help of corporations to supplement salaries of key city workers through public-private partnerships. This is an idea that has been tried successfully in other municipalities and that might help Harrisburg attract the kind of talent it will need to get the city moving again. Public-private partnerships have the potential to augment scant resources in city government and bring in expertise and talent that will be sorely needed in the years ahead.

**Q.** *If you are elected, what will be your top three priorities upon taking office?*

**A.** Our top three will be attracting business and investment, crime and safety, and advocating for education. Beautifying our neighborhoods also is a priority as it impacts quality of life and economic development.

One of the most important things the next mayor can do is create a business-friendly atmosphere to create jobs for the people of Harrisburg. Being hostile to business and negative to investment is the wrong message for any mayor to send. I am an advocate for restoring pride and prosperity to our city. We can't do that by pitting "Main Street" against "Wall Street," as some have done in divisive, political rhetoric. We need both business and labor working side by side with the common goal of making better lives for us all. I am a strong advocate of labor and unions, but I am not foolish enough to believe that Harrisburg can be prosperous again without ensuring businesses feel welcome. I plan to create a Department of Economic and Community Development that will support business and investment and make it easier for small businesspeople to thrive.

Unless we reinvigorate our police department and reduce the crime rate, businesses will continue to shy away from our city. Ensuring strong leadership in the police department and accountability of police officers are at the very top of my priorities.

And while the mayor has no direct role in our schools, I will be a tireless advocate for our children, teachers and parents. The mayor can inspire businesses to support our schools through creative investment programs and by helping teachers feel appreciated. I have called for keeping school libraries open late to provide a safe haven for youth after school. As father of three small children, being an advocate for education is not only a political priority, it is a personal mission.

**Q.** *Perhaps the most significant development since the mayoral primary has been the unveiling, and subsequent confirmation in court, of the state-appointed receiver's recovery plan for the city. What positives and/or negatives do you see in the Harrisburg Strong Plan, and how do you view the next mayor's role with respect to the plan's implementation?*

**A.** The next mayor will have to implement the Harrisburg Strong Plan, which is essentially a business plan for Harrisburg's economic development. I am the only candidate with the business acumen and expertise to be able to effectively institute a business plan for the city of Harrisburg. Right now, Harrisburg needs more than an accountant. It needs someone experienced in business development who can inspire and stimulate growth. I built a successful business from scratch and stimulated the economic revitalization of Midtown Harrisburg. I can do that for the rest of the city and carry out the vision of the Harrisburg Strong Plan. I am the only candidate on the ballot who has pledged to work with the receiver to support the Harrisburg Strong Plan. As a businessman, I have the experience to be able to envision the significant possibilities the Harrisburg Strong Plan represents for the residents. As a community leader, I am encouraged at how the city's leaders and debtors were able to reach common ground; and as a city resident, I am heartened that there is hope for Harrisburg to rise again. The plan is not perfect, as its creators acknowledge. A compromise is never perfect, and some of the plan's failings may become known only in time. But for a city facing the bleak prospect of bankruptcy and possibly decades of financial uncertainty, the Harrisburg Strong Plan is a political, financial and morale boost for the city at a time when it so desperately needs hope. What Harrisburg needs is a mayor with a "can-do" attitude who will aggressively work to help the plan succeed... not someone who wants to see it fail. What Harrisburg needs is a mayor who will look past his own self-serving interests and work for the good of the people of our great city. **B**





# LIVES, RECONSTRUCTED

*County program teaches building trades to ex-offenders.*

BY RON HOPKINS

**Y**ou may have seen them downtown or at Fort Hunter, the Greenbelt or Wildwood Lake.

They're men, mostly young, wielding hammers, hanging drywall, repairing fences. That may seem unremarkable, except that they're inmates of Dauphin County Prison, a select group chosen to participate in a program that teaches them valuable construction skills.

Run collaboratively by the prison and the Home Builders Institute (HBI), the program aims to fight the problem of chronic unemployment among ex-offenders, a lack of opportunity that leads many to return to street crime upon release.

"The HBI PACT for Adults Program at the Dauphin County Prison opens up the door for at-risk populations like ex-offenders to find satisfying and well-paying careers when they leave prison," said Amy Strawser, program manager for HBI PACT for Adults Harrisburg.

These HBI PACT students must demonstrate and apply their competencies in a variety of building trades skills by performing hands-on work around the Harrisburg area. Eight to 10 weeks later, they graduate and earn pre-apprenticeship

certificates, which signifies to employers they are ready for entry-level work.

"The HBI PACT curriculum combines academic instruction with hands-on training in the building trades as well as literacy and employability skills," Strawser said. "The men . . . learn skills that will increase their chances of economic self-sufficiency and success so they can move forward and live a crime-free life."

Community service is an integral component of HBI PACT. Over the past year, students have worked on the Veteran's Building and projects for Habitat for Humanity and the Humane Society of Harrisburg. They have painted offices and the Dauphin County Anglers and Conservationists' clubhouse, completed carpentry and framing, done drywall repair and manned a variety of landscape projects.

At Wildwood Park, crew members helped resurface the 1-mile Towpath Trail and maintain 100 trees planted as part of a TreeVitalize grant from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, said Chris Rebert, manager of Wildwood Park and Olewine Nature Center.

"They also landscaped around the Olewine Nature Center and spearheaded invasive vine removal from mature park trees," said Rebert.

Recently, a lack of job opportunities for ex-offenders has gained greater attention in our area as a key contributor to continued high levels of crime. State Rep. Patty Kim (D-Harrisburg) has made fighting recidivism a centerpiece of her legislative agenda, recently co-sponsoring a bill that would expunge a criminal's record after seven years of release from prison, as long as certain criteria were met.

Several participants said the HBI PACT program allowed them to move on to the next phase of their lives.

Andre, a student, said he anticipated learning the basics of building from the program, but had gained "so much more. In the very near future, I plan to pursue a career in the construction trade. I want to take the knowledge I now have and use it to better my future," he said.

HBI PACT graduate Daniel Smoot said he was employed by a demolition company after his release from prison, and, not long after, was promoted to supervisor. Then, he began building guardrails for another company and is

working on obtaining his commercial driver's license.

"Things worked out well for me, and I would really recommend the HBI program to young guys trying to break into construction," Smoot said.

Dauphin County Prison Deputy Warden Elizabeth Nichols said the prison/HBI partnership has been a success and that a recent grant will allow the program to purchase, remodel and sell an abandoned house, providing the HBI PACT students with a job site, bettering the community and maintaining the program beyond the grant period.

"Inmates participating in the program will gain valuable job experience by providing the necessary work," she said. "This also is a way for inmates to learn to give back to the community—known as restorative justice—another important lesson that contributes to the reduction of recidivism." **B**

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*For more information about the HBI PACT for Adults Harrisburg program, please contact Amy Strawser at [astrawser@hbi.org](mailto:astrawser@hbi.org) or 717-614-5485. You can learn more about HBI's certification programs, mentoring, pre-apprenticeship training and job placement services at [HBI.org](http://HBI.org).*



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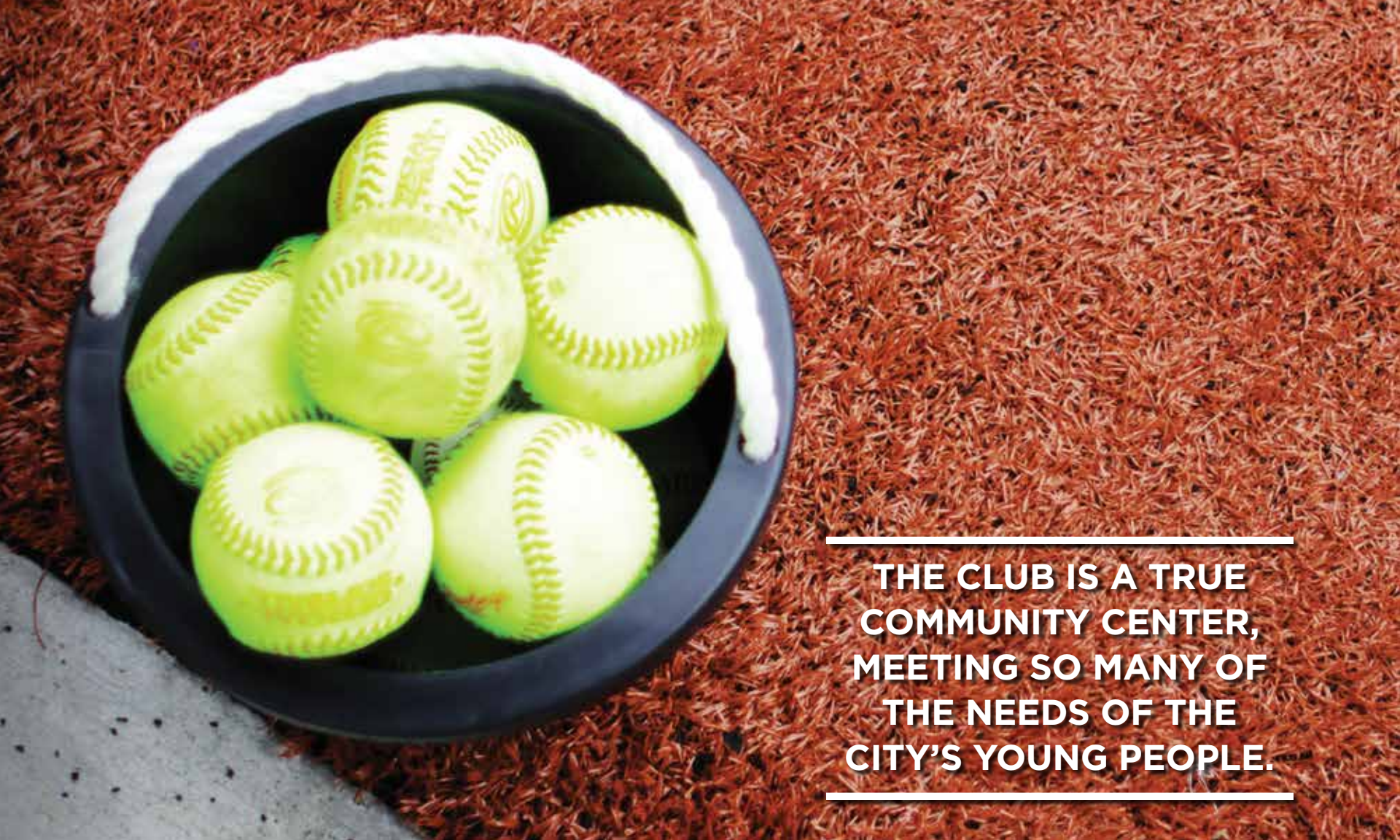


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# WHERE THE BOYS (AND GIRLS) ARE

**KIDS FIND SAFE HAVEN AT BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB.**

**BY BARBARA TRAININ BLANK**

**G**reat futures start at the Boys and Girls Club. But it wasn't long ago that the economy and other setbacks nearly ended its own future. Now, despite a shoestring budget, it's thriving.

One measure is that "enrollment has increased," said Executive Director Yvonne Hollins.

What started as a part-time venture at Harrisburg's St. Paul's Methodist Church in 1939 with 75 boys now serves more than 1,200 boys and girls at three locations: Angino Clubhouse on Berryhill Street, Hall Manor and Downey Elementary.

Youngsters from pre-K through high school do their homework and play indoors and out. They learn social skills and socialize and eat hearty meals. They find a safe haven at the Club, which runs during the summer and after school. An evidence-based curriculum helps strengthen kids' academic skills.

Still, according to board president Phil Shenk, the Club is "one of the best-kept secrets in central Pennsylvania."

That's something the board and staff, especially the ebullient and dedicated

Hollins, are determined to change. She loves when kids such as Khennedy Washington express the Club's mantra—"Graduation is a must, not an option."

Affectionately known as "Miss Yvonne," Hollins knows the name of every kid. She is a product of the projects who went on to teach in the Harrisburg School District and became an administrator in Central Dauphin.

Catherine Juarez, a 12-year-old seventh grader at Rowland Middle School, has been coming for five years and calls the Club a "poster place for kids."

"They help you with homework, give you activities," she said. "You can play outside, read and do arts and crafts."

Juarez noted improvements to the physical plant—from the A/C and teen couches to the playground equipment. More significantly, she has "made new friends."

Her favorite aspect, though, is helping younger kids with their homework. "My dream career is to be a teacher," Juarez said.

Shenk, whose father was the board president decades ago, helped ensure that the building would be up to code but also a place kids could be proud of.

"This coming year, we'd like to pump up volumes—to have more programs that involve kids and their families," he said.



One goal is to open the Club on weekends, so the facilities are used all the time. The first Family Fun Days held on a recent Saturday attracted 200 kids.

Many organizations, businesses and individuals have pitched in to help—hands-on, through volunteerism or donations. Mark and Betty Butler of Ollie's Bargain Outlet raised \$1.4 million for the baseball field, which Core Construction built for free.

Mike Martin oversaw many of the physical improvements as pro bono project manager.

"Mike went on a tour of the building with realtor Bill Rothman and saw the kids interacting," Hollins said. "He saw something special here."

Kids pay a nominal fee of \$10 a year for the afterschool program and \$60 for the summer camp. "But we turn no one away and try to get donations to cover the costs for those who can't afford it," she added.

Most members live within walking distance of the Club, but it has a partnership with Children and Youth to transport those who don't.

Some of the staff were once Club members themselves, adding to the tight-knit feeling.

Kevin Stanfield, a 16-year-old sophomore at John Harris who aims to study psychology or nursing, is a three-year Club veteran. He loves that there's "always something to do—from baseball to X-Box—and a place to hang out with people."

The new Robert C. Shenk Industrial Arts Center, named for Shenk's late brother, offers formal training for the kids and the community.

The Club offers a computer lab, mentoring and such special programs as SMART GIRLS and Passport to Manhood. In the Keystone Room, the kids

develop projects to benefit the community, in partnership with the Soroptimists.

As part of its emphasis on health, the Club provides every kid with a food package for the weekend—thanks to Channels Food Rescue. And the Club sometimes serves as a social service referral agency to help them and their families.

Add two gyms, a laundry room, lockers and a fitness room, and the Club is a true community center, meeting so many of the needs of the city's young people. Earlier this year, the Club even cut the ribbon on a beautiful new baseball field behind the Angino Clubhouse, established by the Carl Ripken Sr. Foundation.

"Cal Ripken believed baseball could teach life skills," said Hollins. "This is the first field the foundation put up in the state. It's used for all of Harrisburg's Little Leagues."

Another gem is the playground, funded by PPL and UGI and open to the community on weekends.

You can sense the coming together of the various strands that make up the Club, from the kids to the staff—which Hollins asserts works well beyond the "pay hours"—to volunteers to the board.

Shenk called Hollins a "rock-hard worker, wonderful person and dedicated leader who believes in structure and goals and does what it takes to get there."

For her part, Hollins said: "I feel so special. We see young lives impacted." **B**

*Find out more about the Girls and Boys Club of Harrisburg, including how to donate items, at [www.bgccp.org](http://www.bgccp.org).*



## YOU CAN HELP

The Club operates under the umbrella of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, with funding from the United Way. It also accepts private donations. The Club currently has the following needs:

- Washing machines and a dryer
- Donations of \$1.78 per day for one year to sponsor a membership and summer camp fee
- New lunch room tables
- Commercial copier for each site
- PA/intercom system, sophisticated security surveillance system
- Lawn care equipment
- Commercial snow blowers
- Paper goods for serving meals





# Confessions of a Barista

WHAT'S LIFE LIKE FOR THE PERSON  
MAKING YOUR POUR-OVER?

By Sylvia Grove  
Photos by Dani Fresh

Little Amps Coffee Roasters is humming smoothly as I push open the door. Two men are bent over a single laptop, each cradling a cup of French press. Another customer is digging through the collection of for-sale vinyls and occasionally sipping a cold jar—the shop's famed shot of espresso poured over ice and shaken vigorously with brown sugar until frothy.

A brightly colored mural of a Mediterranean villa graces one exposed brick wall, and light from the wide windows pours over the polished tables and wooden floorboards at the Olde Uptown location on Green Street. The high, tinny grind of the espresso machine rises above the murmur of voices, and, from behind the bar, barista Allie Schuh waves at me and says, "I'll be with you in just a second."

A connoisseur of cozy spaces, I am familiar with this lifestyle, but Allie has promised to show me the side of the coffee trend that I don't know about—that of the world behind the bar.

According to author Merry "Corky" White, American coffee culture has experienced three major waves: one post-World War II with the introduction of instant coffee, another with the rise of Starbucks and its emphasis on coffee origin and brewing technique and the third with the "refinement of coffee culture" that emphasizes detail and ceremony. With such a refinement, coffee has emerged into the American conscience as a beverage that is both private and public, cult and caffeine. But that is only the story from the front side of the bar.

Allie detaches herself from the espresso machine long enough to give me a hug. "Can I get you something to drink?" she asks, handing me a cup of today's roast: a sweet, fruity Honduras E.V. Perez with flavors that remind me of blueberry and peach.

Allie's smile is contagious, as is her expertise. Her personal interest in coffee began as a passion for meeting people in intimate spaces. It transformed into a profession when she graduated from college and found that many traditional businesses are currently unable to invest in young people, but coffee shops are.

She has been a barista for nearly two years,



photo by Sylvia Grove



beginning in a small coffeehouse in San Francisco and then working at Midtown Scholar Bookstore when she moved to Harrisburg. She joined Little Amps in 2012. "A good barista is worth his weight in gold," Allie says. "The profession of coffee is filling a niche for young people."

Allie smiles at a client over my shoulder, and I'm reminded she's still on the clock. "For you, Nevin?" she asks and drifts away.

I trail behind her and enter the space behind the bar, a chest-high hallway narrower than a church aisle. Tucked out of the sight of clients are plastic bins of freshly roasted coffee lined in neat rows, brown paper bags, an array of spices for specialty drinks, a digital scale and glassware. Mason jars are being chilled in the fridge for the cold jars. A red step stool is just behind the counter so that one can stand at the proper height to execute a pour-over—a style of coffee made from pouring a thin stream of water in a circular motion over a filter of precisely measured grounds. Everything is so organized that I'm afraid to touch anything.

Allie offers to show me how to pull an espresso, and I eagerly step forward. The act of standing before a massive machine and coaxing out a tiny cup of black liquid has always seemed so magical that I can't decide if it will be harder or easier than it looks.

It's both. Allie's lesson comes with a list of warnings: tamp too hard and you'll break the grounds, making it more difficult for water to seep through. Pull a shot too short, and it will be bland. Pull a shot too long, and it will be bitter, like over-steeped tea. Allie rinses the heavy port-a-filter with hot water and holds it out to me. "Ready?" she asks.

She shows me once, and then I try to imitate: grinding the espresso into the port-a-filter while rotating it to get an even fill; leveling the grounds with my finger and tapping the filter once to settle them. I gently nestle the tamp into the grounds to evenly distribute its weight; then I press down with my best guess of what 30 pounds of pressure should feel like. Finally, we lock the filter into the espresso machine.

"Go ahead and pull the lever," Allie says, and I yank down with the same amount of upper body strength that I'd use for an exercise at the gym. The lever reluctantly gives way, and, for nearly half a minute, it releases as espresso pours in delicately colored streams into a waiting cup below: a dark body, a light crema.

I'm staring at the cup reverently when a wave of customers appears before us, and Allie sets my espresso aside. By the time I finish fudging my way through a French press, it's been a few minutes, and Allie informs me that my espresso is too old to give a clear indication of my failure or my success.



\*\*\*\*\*

Outside of Harrisburg, in Linglestown, the lunch rush is just beginning, and the line for coffee is nearly out the door at St. Thomas Roasters. Barista Andrea Musselman is standing at the front counter with her curly auburn hair held back with a bandanna and her fingers poised over the register keys as she takes a customer's order.

Beside her, owner Geof Smith is singing "One is the Loneliest Number" and greeting every customer by name. Laughter mingles with the sound of grinding espresso. Past the serve counter is St. Thomas' Diedrich roaster, surrounded by canvas bags of coffee and white buckets of freshly roasted beans. Nearly 20 loose-leaf teas and 20 in-house roasted coffees are available for bulk purchase, and the aroma of the coffee lingers everywhere: in the coffeehouse's dark green walls, the well-loved sofa next to the back entrance and local artwork that adds to the room's intimacy.

By the time the crowd dies down, Andrea has already served me two house blend espressos: one straight and another poured over ice then strained back out so that I can taste the difference that the temperature makes. She is knowledgeable and moves fast—stepping purposefully to keep up with the speed of the orders.

Her life's first coffee was a Sheetz cappuccino that her father allowed her to sip. "It was the most delicious thing I've ever tasted," she says. "I drank it all, but I don't think I was supposed to." After college, she took a job at Panera Bread that helped her realize that her interest did not just lie in drinking coffee but also in preparing it.

From her standpoint, the modern hype over coffee is not just a fad—it's valid.

"There are 130 flavor components in coffee," Andrea explains. "So much of a flavor depends on the complexity of the soil the coffee was grown in, how the coffee was processed, if there was a bug on a bean that fermented or how the coffee has been roasted. The product itself is really exciting and always changing."

She is drying glasses as she speaks and deftly moves to stir flavor syrups into buckets of fresh beans: hazelnut, vanilla, cinnamon sticky bun. Behind her, Geof has begun the day's roast, and the bitter aroma breaks into the air with the popping sound of cooling coffee.

Being a barista seems to be equal parts science, art, people and sheer physical labor, but at least, according to Andrea, all the days are different. "It's paninis today," she notes, then she laughs. "I sometimes try to predict a busy day. If it's sunny out, you'd think everyone would be out getting coffee, but that sometimes means everyone's doing something else."

Andrea records the date of flavored beans on a clipboard in neat little figures then turns back to me. "Have you ever made a latte?"

I want to impress Andrea with my espresso skills, but this machine is different, and I do not know which buttons to push. Instead, she grinds an espresso and tamps it with a crisp tamp, tap, tamp, tap—and pulls the espresso into a cream-colored

mug with green stripes. "To steam milk," she says, handing a cupful of 2 percent to me, "you have to hold the cup a bit to the side with the steam wand inside, like this, so the milk will swirl."

With the sound of a long, tight slurp, my milk spins in a vortex and rapidly jumps to 160 degrees: too high. "Now drop the cup down to get some foam," Andrea instructs. I follow, but I drop too far, and the milk coughs out. I quickly take it off the heat.

To make latte art, Andrea tells me to pour the steamed milk slowly into the espresso, beginning high above the cup then dropping closer while swinging the stream gently from side to side. This technique results in a mug that looks like it's been topped with a white, coffee-rimmed blob.

I'm staring at it, thinking mud puddle, when Andrea's co-worker Jessica Janze walks by and cheerfully congratulates me on making a sun.

I'm further behind on my coffee career than I thought.

\*\*\*\*\*

For both Allie and Andrea, both sides of the bar—that of the barista and that of the customer—have their merits.

"The best part of it is really getting to talk about coffee and connect with people," Andrea says. "When someone comes back in and says, 'the coffee you recommended was perfect,' that's really satisfying."

Allie would agree. "As a barista, you really get to know the customers you serve. Even though you're interacting with people just minutes every day, there's still time to invest in relationships."

But the other side of the bar is equally satisfying. "In a coffee shop, you get to know your community, meet your significant other here, make friendships," Allie says. "I'm a barista, and I still enjoy going to a coffee shop after work. This is where it all happens."

She chuckles. "And on that side of the bar, my feet don't hurt as much." **B**



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# Cross the Rubicon— Then Have a Drink, a Nosh

*The ladies of Mangia Qui are about to bring fine bar culture to Harrisburg.*

BY DAN WEBSTER

At 10 p.m. on a Tuesday evening in late August, a lone party of eight is finishing up their meal at Mangia Qui, waiting for their limo to show up. They won an auction gift that was an in-kind donation from the owners, Staci Basore, Elide Hower and Qui Qui Musarra, who sit around me, eager to chew the fat about their new restaurant, Rubicon.

Musarra keeps using the atmospheric buzzword “convivial” to describe their endeavor. Staci Basore, front of the house manager and co-owner, keeps coming back to the horseshoe bar, a 20-person showcase piece that will define the space. Elide Hower, baker extraordinaire and co-owner, provides input on Rubicon’s proposed hours.

Still short on details, the main thing we know about Rubicon is that the restaurant being constructed next door to Mangia Qui/Suba will be a “proper bar.” Or, in the words of Qui, “bar culture fortified by good food.” A couple of other firm points: a menu mainstay will be French onion soup, and Ashlyn Hawkins, long-time Suba employee, will be tapped as the restaurant’s maître d’. Everything else is up to your imagination until they open in the next few months.

What is certain is that, if the test kitchens are any indication of the creativity and care the ladies of Mangia Qui are putting into this place, Rubicon is sure to live up to their vision par excellence.

On a beautiful June night, a selection of Harrisburg’s own was invited to serve as glorified guinea pigs in Qui’s backyard patio garden. We were de facto food and drink testers, business concept judges and community supporters, offering up our “mmm’s” and nonverbal cues (mostly thumbs up) when eating the battered frog legs (that could have been chicken wings), slurping the French onion soup and dipping crackers into the paté.

The design of a test kitchen is simply this: It’s a way to engross select community members in lively conversation to solicit feedback about the epicurean delights and overall strategy of an incoming restaurant.

While the test kitchen has been selective, Rebecca Miller, former employee of Mangia Qui, has augmented Rubicon’s social engagement with the community through a robust Facebook, Twitter and Instagram campaign.

She says, “Our goal is to engage the community via an image-based media campaign.” Photos by Anela Bence-Selkowitz, owner of Studio A and a local photographer, have been popping up on Facebook since late June, providing glimpses of the construction, the drink concepts. Some posts have asked for opinions from the larger community on matters ranging from preferred libations to the kind of sustainable flooring that should be installed. Call it community input.

And this is because Rubicon, as Basore notes, is all about accessibility.

When asked about the demographic most likely to patronize Rubicon, the three owners are unanimous in saying, “all ages.” Whereas Suba is geared toward a young professional/higher-end drinking crowd, and Mangia Qui to a wealthier strata with a mixture of locals and tourists, Rubicon is a destination designed to attract a wider spectrum of people: those wanting a classic drink at a reasonable price, the best hamburger in town, seasonal dishes or charcuterie.

As the planning gears up, JEM Group continues its work on a total rehabilitation of the former Neptune Lounge, which closed two years ago.







As of this writing, workers had completely gutted the inside, making way for the grand bar with tables that will encircle the main dining area. A staircase will take you to the second floor landing, where you can sip drinks and look down on the goings-on below. Above, you will look into the rafters, where a yet-to-be-purchased light fixture will dangle its way down the three floors and ultimately hang above the bar. The bar's expansiveness will be a horizontal and vertical feature, and the intended vibe is to evoke an era gone by and now being resurrected here in Harrisburg.

Hawkins, however, says it plainly: "The ladies of Mangia Qui are opening a bar."

Sold. **B**

*Rubicon will be located at 268 North St., Harrisburg.  
Photos by Anela Bence-Selkowitz.*







# SAVOR THE SEASON

*As the weather chills,  
stir the flavors of fall  
into your cooking.*

BY MISSY SMITH

Every year, I look forward to autumn. The crisp air, the changing leaves and, most importantly, the food, are what made me fall in love with this time of year at a young age. Autumn and the upcoming winter holidays are perfect times to flex your cooking and baking muscles. I personally seem to ramp up my time in the kitchen this time every year.

Here are some seasonally inspired recipes that are simple for both your own weekly meal planning and for holiday parties. Taking inspiration from well-loved recipes and family traditions, these dishes bring a fresh twist to the season's enchanted flavors.

## AUTUMN MORNING PARFAIT

2 cups plain yogurt  
1 apple  
1 cup raisins  
2 cups granola  
2 tablespoons sugar or honey  
2 tablespoons cinnamon

*Makes 2 parfaits*

Our family recently played around with this fall-inspired fruit and yogurt parfait. One of my favorite breakfast items, the parfait is a healthy start to the day and can be reworked with many different fruits and flavors. The combination of crisp apples, raisins and cinnamon adds a special seasonal flair. The great thing about parfaits is there is really no wrong way to make them. If you prefer more of any ingredient, feel free to adjust the recipe to your taste.

Pick out 2 mason jars or decorative glasses for your parfaits. Chop 1 large apple into small chunks, leaving 2 slices for garnish if you would like. Using half of your chopped apples, place an equal amount at the bottom of each glass. Top each set of apples with ½-cup of yogurt. Next, add ½-cup of granola

to the top of each yogurt layer. Top your first complete parfait layers with ¼-cup raisins, 1 teaspoon of sugar or honey and 1 teaspoon of cinnamon. Complete a second tier: apple chunks, then yogurt, granola, raisins, cinnamon and sugar. Dress up your parfait with a dollop of yogurt and sprinkle a pinch of cinnamon over the top. Serve with a sliced apple to garnish.

## ROASTED ROOTS

2 potatoes  
1 sweet potato  
2 carrots  
1 beet  
1 onion  
4 garlic cloves  
olive oil  
1 tablespoon rosemary leaves  
salt and pepper to taste

*Makes about 4 side servings*

A simple yet delicious recipe, this version of roasted root vegetables is perfect to make for weeknight dinners and large get-togethers. I love the sweetness and color that this

combination of vegetables brings to the dish. Chop some veggies, stick them in the oven and enjoy a hearty, satisfying fall side dish.

Start by preheating your oven to 425 degrees. Cut all of the vegetables into roughly 1-inch chunks and place into a large bowl. Top with 1 tablespoon of olive oil, and the rosemary leaves. Toss the mixture to coat the veggies. Arrange the cut veggies around a greased baking dish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast your root veggies in the oven for about 45 minutes or until they achieve a golden color. Serve right away.

## FALL SAUSAGE BAKE

1 pound sausages, cut into  
2- or 3-inch pieces  
2 or 3 apples, cored and sliced into wedges  
2 onions  
Olive oil  
Cinnamon  
Sugar

*Makes 4-6 servings*

This is a fall childhood favorite that my mom discovered in a church cookbook years

*Butternut Squash Chowder*





ago and made quite often for our family. It's easy to make, it's savory and sweet, and it's usually a hit with both adults and kids. I added caramelized onions to this version for an extra treat.

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Chop the onions into circular rings, and spread them around a large baking dish, greased with olive oil. Drizzle a small amount of oil over the onions and top with 1 tablespoon of sugar. Place in the oven for 10 minutes to start caramelizing the onions while you cut the sausages and apples. After 10 minutes, remove the onions from the oven. Scatter the sausage pieces around the baking dish and arrange the apple slices between the sausages. Sprinkle the apples with a modest amount of sugar and cinnamon. Bake for about 30 minutes, until the sausages brown and the apples become tender. Serve warm.

**BUTTERNUT SQUASH  
CHOWDER**

- 3 butternut squash, halved
- olive oil
- 1 pound of chicken thighs
- ½ bag frozen corn
- 1 pear
- 2 garlic cloves
- ½ cup of cheddar cheese
- ½ cup cream
- 1 tablespoon paprika, or to taste
- salt and pepper to taste
- hot sauce (optional)

*Makes about 6 cup-size servings*

A bit of a twist on the traditional butternut squash soup, this chowder adds a delightful sweetness from the corn and pear. The chicken gives it a hearty chowder feel, and the cheese brings out the richness of the butternut squash. When we recently made this chowder at home for dinner, it disappeared in no time.

Place the chicken, corn and garlic in a crockpot on high and cook for 6-8 hours. When the chicken and corn are fully cooked, turn your crock pot to a low setting.

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Slice the pear in half lengthwise, scoop out the seeds and remove the stem. Grease a small baking dish with olive oil and place the pear facing down. Bake for 35 minutes, then let cool for about 10 minutes. Place the pear in a blender or food processor, and blend until you have a puree.

Grease a large baking dish with olive oil. Halve the butternut squash and place the pieces face down in the baking dish. I prefer to remove the seeds after the squash has finished cooking, but you may remove them before you pop the squash in the oven. Bake for about 1½ hours or until the flesh becomes very tender. Set aside for about 10-15 minutes.

Once the squash has cooled, remove the seeds, scoop out the flesh and place the cooked squash and cream in the blender or food processor, in which you pureed the pear. Blend until smooth. Pour the squash mixture into the crockpot and stir in the cheese. Season with paprika, salt and pepper. Let the soup reheat. Once ready, top each serving with shredded cheese and a splash of hot sauce if you'd like.



Roasted Roots



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MUSCLES.**





**WHOOPIE PIES**

Practically famous throughout Pennsylvania, the whoopie pie can be found in local bakeshops, restaurants and tourist attractions around our region and beyond. As a kid growing up, the whoopie pie was a must-buy when I toured Lancaster County with my family. So impressed by these adorable treats, I didn't realize just how easy they are to make until a few years ago. Most recently, I got to know the book "Whoopie Pies," in which authors Sarah Billingsley and Amy Treadwell give baking enthusiasts the liberty to play around with funky flavor combinations. Inspired to create my own interesting versions, I came up with these artisan renditions, which are perfect for autumn and the winter holidays.

***Pumpkin Chai Whoopies***

- 2¼ cups of all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon ginger
- ½ teaspoon cloves
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup butter (room temperature)
- 1½ cup pumpkin
- 1 egg (room temperature)
- 1 tablespoon vanilla

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees, making sure that the rack is in the center of the oven. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside.

In one large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, nutmeg and salt. In a second large bowl, use a hand mixer or stand mixer to beat together the brown sugar and butter on low speed. Add the pumpkin, egg and vanilla, blending well. Slowly add the dry ingredients on a low speed.

Scoop out heaping tablespoons of batter onto the baking sheet, spacing them at least 2 inches apart; this amount makes small-sized whoopie pies. If you'd like larger whoopies, spoon out about 2 tablespoons for each little cake. Smooth out the appearance of your whoopie pies by molding its shape with moistened fingers. If you're a lazy baker like me, you don't have to fuss with a whole lot of shaping. Hey, it adds character, right?

Bake for about 15 minutes, or until the cakes spring back with a gentle touch. Let the cakes cool on the baking sheet for about 5 minutes and move them to a cooling rack. While they are cooling, you can get started on the filling.

***Chai Cream filling***

- black tea bag, or a chai tea bag for an extra spice kick
- 8 ounces cream cheese (room temperature)
- 3½ cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ginger
- ¼ teaspoon clove
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg

Steep the tea bag in 2 tablespoons boiling water and set aside until cool. Beat the cream cheese until smooth. Mix in the tea, vanilla

extract, cinnamon, ginger, clove and nutmeg. Gradually add the confectioners' sugar until well blended. Scoop about a tablespoon of the filling onto the flat part of one whoopie cake/cookie and sandwich another whoopie on top. Make sure your whoopie cakes have cooled completely so your filling doesn't melt.

***Dark Chocolate Ginger Whoopies***

- 1¾ cups all purpose flour
- ¾ cup cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon ginger
- ¾ cup butter (room temperature)
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 1 large egg (room temperature)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ cup buttermilk
- ½ cup warm strong coffee

Preheat oven to 375 degrees, placing the rack in the center of the oven. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside.

Mix the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda, salt and ginger together in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, beat the butter and sugar with a mixer. Add the egg and vanilla extract and blend well. Combine the buttermilk and coffee in a glass.

Alternately blend the dry ingredients and coffee mixture into the butter/sugar mixture, starting and ending with the dry ingredients. Follow the steps in the pumpkin chai whoopie recipe to arrange your batter on the sheet.

**THESE ARTISAN RENDITIONS ARE PERFECT FOR AUTUMN AND THE WINTER HOLIDAYS.**

Bake in the oven for about 10 minutes or until the tops spring back. Let the cakes cool while you mix the filling.

***Ginger Cream filling***

- 8 ounces cream cheese (room temperature)
- 3½ cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon ginger

Combine all ingredients on a low mixing setting, starting by blending the cream cheese first. Gradually mix in the confectioners' sugar, and add the vanilla and ginger. Your end result should be a creamy yet slightly fluffy filling. Piece together your whoopie pie as explained above. **E**

*Thank you to Spiral Path Farm for donating produce for these recipes.*

*Photos by Missy Smith.*



# THE RIGHT STUFFING

*A holiday tale of beer, salt & the perfect dressing.*

BY ROSEMARY RUGGIERI BAER

Responsibility for Thanksgiving dinner dropped on me like a mantle sometime in the late 1990s.

My father was no longer with us, and my mother seemed unable to continue our family tradition of preparing the annual feast. There was always comfort in knowing everything would be the same year after year: red linen tablecloth (also used for Christmas dinner), a little, half-burned candle that smelled like brown sugar, my father in his plaid flannel shirt and the wonderful smell of turkey roasting in the oven. But now, it was up to me.

So, despite the fact that I considered myself a pretty good cook by that time, when it came to turkey and filling, I was largely lost. Thanksgiving was going to be at my house, and I really didn't know where to begin.

The evening before the 1997 holiday, after putting in a long day at work, I started this adventure with the filling. I knew the basic ingredients, having watched my mother and aunt for so many years. And I assembled them all together in the biggest bowl I had. Unexpectedly, our friends, Suzi and Eddie, dropped by and, a few beers later, disaster struck. Mixing all the filling ingredients together and trying to add salt from a large Morton salt container, the top came off. The entire contents poured into the bowl. I quickly scooped as much of the top layers as I could out of the bowl, but clearly this was not going to be good.

The men were dispatched to the grocery store only to find mostly bare shelves. Several cell phone exchanges later, they returned with a bread product I can no longer remember, and I began again, saving what I could from the original batch. The stuffing was salty, but we all survived.

I am better at making stuffing now, and I collect as many different recipes for it as I can: filling with sausage, with oysters (who eats that?), cornbread filling, filling with chestnuts and filling with every kind of fresh herb you can imagine. I have tried them all. Did I mention dried cranberries?

The problem is that I like my mother's stuffing the best, and it is so very ordinary. I use a good quality country white bread, fresh parsley, celery hearts and sweet butter. But the star of the filling, I think, is McCormick's Poultry Seasoning, a dried herb mixture that has been around forever. (What? No fresh sage or thyme?) But it must be a fresh jar, not the dusty stuff from four holidays ago. I don't really follow a recipe or measure the ingredients, but I keep on tasting it until it is just right.

I make lots and lots of this filling the day before Thanksgiving, usually more than we can eat. On Thanksgiving Day, I take the pans out of the refrigerator and bake them for about 30 to 45 minutes in a 350-degree oven. I use some of the dressing to stuff the bird and save the rest for future meals. Extra filling freezes well and goes with pork chops, ham and chicken breasts, too.

Thanksgiving is only a few weeks away. I know I will search through Bon Appetite and Food and Wine magazines for exotic fillings again this year. (Maybe an Indian version?) And I will likely experiment with a new one. But this is the one my guests will actually eat.

I wish all TheBurg readers a blessed and happy Thanksgiving. **B**

## ROSEMARY'S STUFFING

- *Cut 1½ to 2 loaves of Arnold or Pepperidge Farm white country bread into ½-inch cubes and place them in a very large bowl. (I leave the crusts on.)*
- *In a food processor, place several ribs of celery hearts that have been cut into pieces, a large sweet onion cut into chunks and a whole bunch of fresh (de-stemmed) parsley. Process this mixture until it is minced fairly fine and add it to the bread cubes, tossing it all very well.*
- *Sprinkle the poultry seasoning (I use a lot), salt and freshly ground pepper into the bowl and mix with a large spoon or your hands.*
- *Melt 1½ sticks of sweet, unsalted butter in the microwave and pour into the stuffing, mixing as you pour.*
- *Keep tasting for the correct amount of salt, pepper and poultry seasoning and adjust to your taste.*
- *Now the important part: the filling should be moist, but not wet. If it seems too dry, add a little unsalted chicken broth.*
- *Place in a deep rectangular baking dish and cover with foil.*







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# ENTENDIENDO UNIDOS LA REFORMA DEL CUIDADO DE LA SALUD

*Preguntas y Respuestas en colaboración con INGROUPO Asociados.*



*Kelly Lieblein, Regional Vice President  
Highmark Blue Shield*



*Stephanie M. Hoffmann, Director, Business  
Development/Health Care Reform  
Capital BlueCross*



*George Beauregard, DO, Senior Vice  
President and Chief Clinical Officer  
PinnacleHealth*



*William Pugh, Senior Vice President  
for Corporate Finance & CFO  
PinnacleHealth*



*Kim Jacobs, Vice President  
Product & Consumer Innovation  
UPMC Health Plan*

**E**stá cambiando rápidamente la manera en la cual el cuidado de la salud se utiliza en los Estados Unidos. El mes pasado, por primera vez, personas pudieron inscribirse para la cubierta bajo la Ley de Protección y Asequibilidad del Paciente, una ley federal que obliga a todos los estadounidenses a estar cubiertos por un seguro de cuidado de la salud. Por lo tanto, TheBurg, junto con el proveedor de soluciones de salud INGROUPO Associates, pidió a varios expertos de la industria de seguros sobre esos cambios y cómo afecta a los consumidores.

**1 HOY DÍA EXISTEN HERRAMIENTAS DE COMPARACIÓN DE COSTOS A LOS CONSUMIDORES. ESTAS HERRAMIENTAS AYUDAN A VER LA DIFERENCIA EN EL COSTO DE LOS PROCEDIMIENTOS ENTRE FACILIDADES MÉDICAS MÁS CONOCIDAS POR LOS CONSUMIDORES. EL MISMO PROCEDIMIENTO MEDICO PUEDE COSTARLE DE 35-40% MÁS ENTRE UNA FACILIDAD A OTRA. ¿QUÉ ESTÁN HACIENDO SOBRE ESTAS DIFERENCIAS EN COSTO?**

**HIGHMARK:** Highmark Blue Shield a través de una serie de herramientas en línea fáciles de usar, provee recursos de comparación de costo, junto con otra información práctica. Haciendo información de costo y calidad accesible a nuestros miembros, ayudamos a tomar decisiones informadas al momento de decidir sobre los médicos, hospitales, procedimientos médicos y medicamentos recetados.

Nuestras herramientas en línea son fáciles de navegar y proporcionan información al día de proveedores y costos de procedimientos. Una de estas herramientas es el estimador de costos de cuidado que muestra qué parte de un procedimiento será responsabilidad

del miembro. Esta herramienta integra los costos del proveedor de servicios, deducibles, coaseguros y los gastos de bolsillo, información necesaria para calcular el costo en cientos de servicios internos y procedimientos ambulatorios. Las estimaciones incluyen el costo típico de un procedimiento más los costos de servicios relacionados, incluyendo hospital, médico, pruebas de laboratorio, rayos x y más.

**CAPITAL BLUE CROSS:** Capital BlueCross ha estado a la vanguardia de la industria en la visibilidad de costos de cuidado de la salud a nuestros clientes. Pueden entrar en nuestra página de internet en [capbluecross.com](http://capbluecross.com) y entrar a la herramienta MyCareAdvisor para comparar los costos de los servicios de salud en las diferentes instalaciones y tomar decisiones informadas sobre el cuidado de la salud que eligen y cuánto le costará. También proporcionamos herramientas para hacer más fácil encontrar proveedores en su área y con las especialidades que necesitan. Tomando el control de su cuidado de la salud no tiene que tomar mucho tiempo.

**UPMC HEALTH PLAN:** Transparencia revelará las diferencias en los costos de los mismos procedimientos a través de diferentes instalaciones médicas. Muchos factores van a determinar los costos. Mientras que nosotros no podemos comentar sobre factores utilizados por otros proveedores, podemos decir que hacemos todo lo posible para mantener los costos al alcance de todos. Además, estamos comprometidos a proporcionar visibilidad no sólo en precio, sino también en calidad. Cada consumidor debe tomar en cuenta todos los factores que son importantes para ellos antes de tomar sus decisiones sobre el cuidado de la salud. Es nuestra intención de proporcionar las herramientas e información necesaria a nuestros miembros para tomar las decisiones adecuadas para ellos.

**PINNACLEHEALTH:** PinnacleHealth siempre se ha preocupado de brindar la más alta calidad de atención mientras ayuda a contener los costos del cuidado de la salud. Al trabajar juntamente con los empresas del área y personas claves, podemos continuar con esa tendencia, así como animar a los pacientes para recibir el cuidado adecuado en el sitio adecuado con un énfasis en la atención preventiva y una mejor coordinación del cuidado — con enfoque especial en el paciente. El costo real no es las tarifas publicadas o cargos—es en las tarifas de pago negociada entre los aseguradores y los proveedores. Medicare también paga diferentes cantidades basadas en las diferencias salariales regionales y el costo de la educación médica en ciertos hospitales. La diferencia real es que las compañías de seguros han negociado con el hospital y médico y lo que le cobran a una persona sin seguro de salud, esta información todavía no es muy transparente. PinnacleHealth lanzó una nueva herramienta para uso en su página de internet llamada Estimador PinnacleHealth para ayudar a futuros pacientes y sus familias entender mejor el costo del cuidado de la salud. En esta página de internet un paciente puede completar una forma de tres partes y podrá obtener información sobre el costo de un diagnóstico o procedimiento.

Empresas le piden a sus empleados a que compartan más del costo de un seguro médico a través de planes con deducibles altos. PinnacleHealth proporciona una herramienta que hace más efectivo entender el costo en las opciones de cuidado de la salud. El estimador puede utilizarse en conjunto con la información proporcionada por los médicos y los planes de salud.

La aplicación de software utiliza “promedio de reembolsos” (no cargos o rangos de cargos), generando resultados dinámicos. Los hospitales pueden tener cargos/tarifas muy similares para un servicio determinado, pero dependiendo de los contratos de seguros puede variar significativamente la diferencia entre lo que cobran los hospitales y lo que se cobra a los pacientes.



2

## ¿CUÁLES SON TUS PERCEPCIONES DE CÓMO LA LEY DE PROTECCIÓN Y ASEQUIBILIDAD DEL PACIENTE (ACA) IMPACTARÁ SU INDUSTRIA Y SU EMPRESA DIRECTAMENTE?

**HIGHMARK:** Hemos estado preparando nuestros productos, nuestros sistemas y las comunicaciones para la reforma ya que la ley fue firmada en el 2010. Estamos ofreciendo una variedad de planes de salud para satisfacer las diversas necesidades de los individuos y familias a través de los mercados. En la región Central de Pennsylvania, estamos ofreciendo 13 planes a la venta en el mercado, así como dos planes de varios estados de la Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

Hemos trabajado duro para costear estos planes de precios al alcance de todos, dado los nuevos requerimientos y honorarios en la nueva ley. Nosotros y la industria hemos dejado claro que los costos para algunas personas pueden ser más bajos y para otros, puede ser más alta que anteriormente, como consecuencia de la ley. Animamos a la gente a aprender más acerca de la reforma visitando nuestra página de internet [www.discoverhighmark.com](http://www.discoverhighmark.com), donde se puede explorar cómo funciona la reforma, lo que significa para ellos personalmente y cuáles son sus obligaciones de cobertura y opciones disponibles.

**CAPITAL BLUE CROSS:** es difícil exagerar lo que representa un cambio de la ACA para la toda la industria de cuidado de la salud, y mucho menos seguro de salud. Mientras que muchos planes de seguro de salud patrocinado por el empleador mantendrán sus cubiertas principales, las aseguradoras deben adaptarse como cubren seguro para individuos y grupos pequeños, cómo manejan el riesgo de los consumidores y qué tipo de servicios cubren. Como un asegurador de esta área durante 75 años, Capital BlueCross siempre ha ofrecido una variedad de planes para satisfacer las necesidades de nuestros clientes y empresas y continuará haciéndolo en el nuevo ambiente de cuidado de la salud.

**UPMC HEALTH PLAN:** Hay aproximadamente 200,000 personas sin seguro médico en nuestra área de servicio que podrán adquirir cobertura en el mercado. La oficina de presupuesto del Congreso estima que 20-30 por ciento de personas no aseguradas comprarán cobertura en 2014. Esto equivale a 40,000-60,000 nuevos miembros en el mercado y la competencia para asegurar estos miembros ciertamente tendrá un impacto sobre nuestra empresa. En general, esperamos que sea uno de los mayores impactos de la Ley de Protección y Asequibilidad del Paciente (ACA) que le dará un alto número de consumidores acceso a cobertura asequible. Además, también permite el aumento en la competencia y la transparencia en el mercado, que al final será de gran beneficio para los consumidores.

**PINNACLE HEALTH:** La Ley de Protección y Asequibilidad del Paciente (ACA) ya está causando cambio en la industria de la salud, a través de varias penalidades e incentivos conectados a los pagos de Medicare. Los proveedores de salud son la fuerza impulsora detrás de la ACA para mejorar la salud de la población estadounidense y reducir costos innecesarios a través de más cuidado coordinado.

Además, los sistemas de salud están preparando e invertir en proveedores adicionales, el personal, y rediseñar nuestro modelo de cuidados de la salud para

implementar coordinación en cuidado de la salud basado en la comunidad.

3

## ¿QUÉ RECOMENDARÍAS A LAS EMPRESAS PARA AYUDARLES A CONTROLAR SUS COSTOS DE CUIDADO DE LA SALUD? ¿REALMENTE HA CAMBIADO ALGO PARA LA MAYORÍA DE LOS EMPLEADORES BAJO LA LEY DE CUIDADO ASEQUIBLE (ACA) COMO SU INTENTO DE CONTROLAR LOS COSTOS FUTUROS DE PROPORCIONAR A SUS EMPLEADOS SEGURO MÉDICO?

**HIGHMARK:** La Ley de Protección y Asequibilidad del Paciente significará más gente tendrán cobertura de seguro de salud y eso es algo bueno. Probablemente no hace lo suficientemente para tratar de mantener los costos de atención bajos y sabemos que los costos de ahora son insostenibles.

Trabajamos juntos con nuestros clientes para satisfacer sus necesidades específicas y desarrollar una estrategia personalizada. Los empleadores necesitan mirar sus planes de salud y ver cuánto es el costo compartido para los empleados que quieren considerar. Los empleadores también deben alentar a sus empleados a comprometerse participar en programas de bienestar e incentivos financieros, para que los empleados puedan tomar mayor control y responsabilidad de sus propios problemas de salud y tienen un mayor papel en cómo se gastan sus dólares de atención de salud.

**CAPITAL BLUE CROSS:** Las empresas más grandes ya muchas ofrecen a sus empleados cobertura de seguro de salud antes de la nueva ley y continuará haciéndolo ahora que se ha implementado. La ley significa que habrá algunos cambios en el tipo y el costo de la cobertura que pueden proporcionar a sus empleados, pero también significa que los individuos y pequeños empleadores tendrán mayor acceso a la cobertura. A la larga, el hecho de que todos deben tener cobertura de salud también hará en general, una fuerza laboral más saludable. Mientras que algunos de los mecanismos que han ayudado a los empleadores a administrar los costos de salud se han limitado significativamente o incluso eliminado, tales como enfermedades preexistentes y períodos de espera para la cobertura, hay cosas fundamentales todavía los empleadores pueden hacer para reducir el costo de la cobertura y aumentar la salud de sus empleados. Implementar un programa de bienestar de salud es un ejemplo.

**UPMC HEALTH PLAN:** Manejar la salud de la población, con énfasis en el bienestar y la prevención, es un elemento clave para los empleadores controlar los costos de seguros médicos. Más del 50 por ciento de los gastos está en enfermedades prevenibles debido a hábitos de vida no saludables. Con la creciente crisis de la obesidad y las enfermedades asociadas (como la diabetes y la hipertensión), un programa de bienestar y salud junto con incentivos puede tener un impacto positivo en los costos de salud del empleador. Los productos HealthyU de UPMC proporcionan este tipo de programas para las empresas al permitir que los empleados que completen ciertas actividades puedan obtener fondos en una cuenta de incentivo de salud.

**PINNACLEHEALTH:** Nosotros recomendaríamos programas de bienestar y salud, de prevención e incentivos, evaluación de riesgos de salud y planes con aportaciones definidas. PinnacleHealth tiene un programa de bienestar corporativo, CARES, que proporciona una gran variedad de programas de bienestar que incluyen evaluación de riesgo de la enfermedad, nutrición y consejos de peso, seminarios con expertos en la salud, ferias de salud y educación para prevenir las enfermedades. Estos son ofrecidos en el lugar de trabajo.

Las empresas ahora pueden elegir si quieren participar e ofrecer seguros de salud a sus empleados. Esto cambia las reglas del juego y dará lugar a las reducciones de beneficios patrocinados por empleadores con el tiempo. Reglamentos, penalidades y nuevos impuestos han redefinido el papel tradicional y le ha dado a los empleadores una salida. **B**



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¿Qué es esta puntuación que tanto te escuchamos? Y ¿cómo puede un número tener tanto poder? Comprender los hechos acerca de las puntuaciones de crédito le ayudará a tomar decisiones que protegerán sus opciones a la larga.

Primero, entienda qué significa la puntuación en un crédito. Es una evaluación del riesgo matemática basada en la información disponible en su informe de crédito. No incluye información como el empleo, ingresos, edad, sexo ó raza.

Si usted está buscando un préstamo de hogar o automóvil, un puntaje alto es importante, los prestamistas utilizan el puntaje para evaluar su riesgo en dinero prestando. Lo mismo ocurre si usted está buscando una tarjeta de crédito con una tasa de interés baja. Incluso posibles propietarios pueden mirar su puntuación de crédito para ayudar a determinar el riesgo a alquilar a usted. Aunque no esté buscando para obtener un préstamo o casa ahora, nunca se sabe lo que quiera en el futuro. Mantener su puntaje lo más alto posible es generalmente una buena idea.

Un modelo común de puntaje es uno desarrollado por Fair, Isaac and Company. Ellos dan una puntuación llamada FICO, que se basa en muchos factores. Cinco de estos factores son importantes y dentro de su poder de control. Son (en orden de mayor importancia) historial de pago, las cantidades adeudadas, tiempo del historial de crédito, búsqueda de nuevos créditos y tipos de crédito en uso.

Si tu puntuación no está donde usted quiere, la buena noticia es que usted puede tomar medidas para mejorarla.

- Consiga copias de su informe de crédito de las tres agencias principales de informes de crédito para comprobar y corregir los errores.

- Pagar más para bajar sus deudas. Si no puede pagar el saldo total cada mes, envíe más que el mínimo requerido de pago.

- Haga sus pagos a tiempo, cada vez.

- Evite transferir balances a nuevas tarjetas.

- Mantenga su balance de tarjeta los más por debajo del límite de crédito máximo disponible.

- Sólo solicitar y mantener el crédito que necesita

- Pague cuentas de colección, juicios y embargos.

La Información reciente es más importante—así que cuanto más rápido haga las cosas correctas, más rápido usted puede reparar el daño. Y evite “clínicas de reparación de crédito” hacen lo mismo que puedes hacer de gratis por ti mismo.

Tenga en cuenta que no puedes construir crédito sin usarlo. Tener varios (de 2-4 es una buena cantidad) instrumentos de crédito activos demuestra capacidad y responsabilidad. Mantener un balance es la llave. Cuentas abiertas sin usar muestra un alto potencial para tener deuda en el futuro, que puede bajar su puntaje, mientras que muy pocas cuentas también pueden tener un impacto negativo porque no tendrás una larga historia de crédito de uso responsable. **B**



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# CORAZÓN DE LA COMUNIDAD

*LHACC provee ayuda y celebración para la comunidad latina de Harrisburg.*

RICK KEARNS



*Leonsa "Negrita" Guerrero (left) and Rosa Pereira (right) cooking at LHACC for an event.*



*Gloria Vázquez Merrick, Executive Director, LHACC*

Localizado en South Allison Hill, El Centro Hispano-Americano (LHACC) se está preparando para más iniciativas, luego de su Fiesta en la Calle a mediados de Septiembre.

LHACC, una agencia sin fines de lucro, provee información, referidos y manejos de casos, educación y otra variedad de servicios a toda la comunidad Latina. Su enfoque es en el desarrollo de programas educativos para los jóvenes y los envejecientes.

La Directora Ejecutiva Gloria Vázquez Merrick explicó que la Fiesta en la Calle atrajo más de 800 personas con mesas de 40 organizaciones diferentes incluyendo iglesias, colegios, negocios privados y otras agencias sin fines de lucro. La Fiesta también tenía una banda local de salsa llamada Los Monstros, unos grupos de baile con jóvenes puertorriqueños, una ceremonia de reconocimiento a los negocios con buenos records de programas de reclutamiento diverso y varios vendedores de comida latina. Ella también explicó que en el 2010 solo participaron 250 personas y 30 organizaciones.

"Estamos bien contentos con la participación," dijo Vázquez Merrick, "y la respuesta a las mesas está de acuerdo con lo que estamos viendo."

Ella explicó que muchos de sus clientes - un promedio de 600 a 700 pedidos de servicios por mes- están buscando ayuda con alimentos, empleo, clases de inglés como segundo lenguaje y problemas de inmigración.

"Pero el porcentaje mayor de personas que vienen al Centro es en búsqueda de empleo", ella dijo. "Hoy vino una agencia de empleo y le entregamos una lista de personas buscando empleo. Muchos empleadores están reconociendo el valor del trabajador bilingüe y nosotros ayudamos a llenar esas necesidades también."

Muchos de estos clientes están buscando clases de inglés o ayuda con

problemas de inmigración como la renovación de su tarjeta verde (green card) o con sus pasaportes.

También ella añadió que el Centro tiene un programa de servicios humanos, pero los empleados notaron la necesidad de programas y servicios bilingües para los jóvenes y los envejecientes.

"Cuando empezamos muchos de nuestros envejecientes se sentían ignorados y necesitados de programas culturales para ellos."

De ahí, Vázquez Merrick inició un evento el miércoles en la noche para los latinos envejecientes llamado Compartiendo Sabiduría. Este evento semanal incluye charlas sobre la salud como la diabetes, el corazón, la educación y la recreación. Los participantes también juegan dominos, cartas, bingo y socializan.

"También notamos una necesidad para programas para los jóvenes Latinos." Basado en eso ella se comunicó con universidades locales y eventualmente se hizo miembro del -Youth Advisory Council- dirigido por Ruth Cruz-Roldan que es miembro de la Junta de la escuela.

"Hemos conocido estudiantes Latinos de toda el área, y empecé una iniciativa para ayudar a entrenar jóvenes en liderazgo y apoyo educacional," dijo ella.

"Tenemos que invertir en nuestros jóvenes." **E**

*El Centro Latino Hispano-Americano está localizado en 1301 Derry St., Harrisburg. Puede encontrar más información en [www.lhacc.org](http://www.lhacc.org) o puede llamar al 717-232-8302.*

*Donations to LHACC are greatly appreciated, tax deductible and can be made by visiting our Website at [www.lhacc.org](http://www.lhacc.org) or by calling 717-232-8302.*



# CYBER-MINDED

*Online education is transforming the way public school is taught. What does it mean for students—and for the struggling Harrisburg School District?*

BY PAUL BARKER

**O**n a typical school day last year, Jada Rosario got up, ate breakfast and brushed her teeth. Then, she logged on to her computer—“You know, still in my pajamas”—and started taking classes. Around noon, she would break for lunch, and maybe watch a movie. Most days, she wrapped up her studies by early afternoon.

Rosario, who graduated high school in the spring, was a member of Cougar Academy, a virtual school within the Harrisburg School District. Cougar students work remotely, using software that delivers their coursework and quizzes, and they can phone in or visit the school's drop-in center if they require personal instruction. The district provides laptops and printers to participants and reimburses families for Internet costs. When the school first opened, in the fall of last year, more than 100 students enrolled.

Rosario, a cheerful, articulate young woman who wants to become a paralegal, like her mother, signed up for Cougar in the hopes of bringing up her grades. At first, she thought online learning would

be boring, but soon she settled in. She raced through her English lessons, doing “up to, like, 10 lessons” each morning, and saved math for evenings or the end of the week, when her mother could assist her. Around Christmas, she had the option of returning to traditional school, but she declined.

“I was more focused,” she said. “I wasn’t in the halls, playing around like I was in school.” She wound up finishing her coursework early, and graduated on May 26.

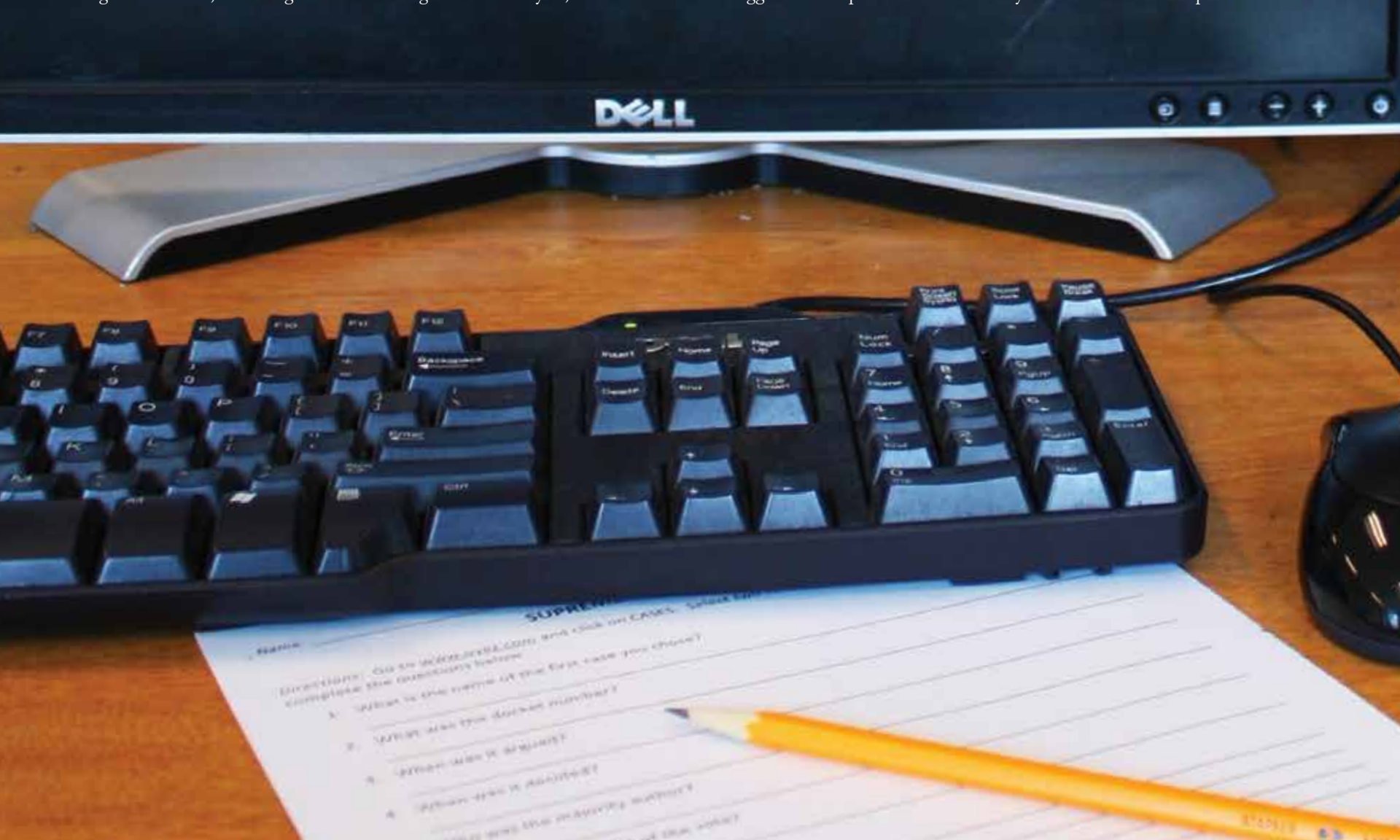
Rosario’s experience in Cougar Academy, as it happens, was rare. Of the total number of students who enrolled, only 21 were left by the end of the year. More than 80 were removed because of poor grades or low attendance, and, of the ones who remained, 10 were failing. In the final tally, a mere nine students of the initial 103 passed the majority of their classes.

Part of the trouble was the freedom. Allison Burris, a teacher who helped direct Cougar Academy last year, said that students struggled to complete

assignments on time, often letting coursework pile up until the last minute. “You had to log in by 2 p.m. every day,” Burris said. “You could ‘log in’ at 2, but do all of the work on the weekend. You could see the influx of work at the end of each marking period.” In addition, about half of the students were “re-entry,” meaning they had previously dropped out or gotten into trouble with the law, making them risky candidates for less supervised study online.

Then there was the problem of the loaned computers. “The risk of borrowing equipment was an issue to me,” Burris told me. “It’s a \$300 charge to us, and if it goes missing, it’s supposed to be the student who pays, but they just don’t pay it. So we absorb that cost.” Of all the equipment loaned last year, Burris said, about half was returned with something missing or damaged. She worried that, in the case of most students, the program was a “waste of money.”

Harrisburg’s in-district cyber-education program is not the only online school whose performance





has been called into question. Last May, the National Education Policy Center, a University of Colorado think tank, published “Virtual Schools in the U.S. 2013,” a scathing survey of 311 online schools across the country. “Despite virtual schools’ track record of students falling behind their peers academically or dropping out at higher rates,” the study’s authors wrote, “states and districts continue to expand virtual schools and online offerings to their students, at high cost to taxpayers.”

Indeed, Cougar Academy is slated to expand. In January, the district will pilot an option for full-time online study for the fifth through eighth grades. In 2015, the program will be available from the first grade onwards. Gene Veno, who was appointed Chief Recovery Officer for the district in December of last year, has included the expansion of cyber offerings as part of his recovery plan.

“In terms of meeting the needs of parents and students, the predominance of cyber enrollment presents a competitive opportunity for the Harrisburg School District,” Veno wrote. “The issue and challenge for the District is to understand the goals and objectives of the students enrolled in cyber schools, and to present a District-operated alternative that meets or exceeds the performance of the non-District cyber schools.”

Why would Harrisburg expand a program that had achieved such dubious results? I put this question, in various ways, to a number of education professionals inside and outside the district. As it turns out, the answer has little to do with whether the instruction is working, and everything to do with what it costs.

The Harrisburg School District, like the city itself, projects an agitated mood. Its many efforts at reform and renewal are shadowed by recurrent crisis. Every year for the past 10 years, one or more of its schools has failed to meet state goals for attendance and academic performance. In 2010 and 2011, the district closed five schools and eliminated almost 400 positions. Enrollment, which was just under 9,000 in 2005, had fallen to 6,340 by the end of last year.

In spite of the contraction, the district continues to face intense budgetary pressures. Its expenditures last year were approximately \$137 million—about the same as they were in 2011, before the closures. The recovery plan, extrapolating from recent trends, projects that costs will increase to \$174 million by 2018. Among the factors the plan cites in its projection are a prolonged spike in health care and energy costs and an increase in the district’s annual debt service. Even in the wake of events like the one in October, when the chief financial officer discovered an unaccounted \$11.5 million in funds, no one denies that the district is en route to debilitating shortfalls. “The sum of all the assumptions produces a grim picture,” Veno’s plan says. “If the District does nothing, it will be out of business.”

An increasingly significant source of expense is the exodus of district students to charter schools. Last year, 672 Harrisburg students enrolled in charter school, more than double the number in 2010. Of these, about 70 percent have opted for a “cyber charter”—that is, a school where courses are provided mostly or entirely online.

The cost to the district is substantial. In Pennsylvania, lawmakers have prioritized families’ freedom of choice, providing for tuition-free enrollment at both public and charter schools. To achieve this, the law requires each student’s home district to reimburse the charter school for the cost of the student’s education. The reimbursement amount is determined by a complicated formula and is based on the per-student cost within the district—an amount calculated by taking the district’s

annual budget and dividing by the number of students. When a student leaves for a charter school, the damage to the budget is two-fold. Not only must the school pay the student’s tuition, but its overall expenses will be spread over a smaller pool, leading to a higher per-student baseline in the formula the following year.

In Harrisburg, the effect has been dramatic. According to Tim Eller, at the state Department of Education, Harrisburg’s reimbursement payment for a non-special education student was \$9,646 in 2011-12. A year later, it had climbed to \$10,804; this year, the payment will be \$11,829. (For special education students, the payments are \$20,536, \$26,311 and \$28,473, respectively.) The charge also applies when parents enroll previously homeschooled students directly in a cyber charter, which is a frequent occurrence, given that cyber school is essentially homeschooling with tech support. In the 2012-13 school year, the total cost of charter-school reimbursements for the Harrisburg School District was around \$9 million.

Within the district, the financial pressure of cyber-

and seeing the education’s not working.” She mentioned a phone call her staff had received from some concerned neighbors, who had approached a young woman they’d repeatedly seen wandering the street in the middle of the day. “I’m doing cyber school,” the girl had told them. They asked what time of day she did her online classes. “Oh, whenever I get chance,” she replied.

Despite these doubts, Sypolt and Knight-Burney still believed the program had potential. Sypolt felt Cougar Academy was the district’s chance to address “cutting-edge technology.” They were also developing criteria to determine whether students were likely to succeed online. But, depending on how strictly the academy screens applicants, it may wind up at cross-purposes with Veno’s plan. If students feel the district is too restrictive, they’ll migrate somewhere else.

When money follows a cyber student out of the district, where does it go? In August, I met with Michael Wilson from Commonwealth Connections Academy, a cyber school with a drop-in center on Reily Street, next



Jada Rosario

charter enrollment has produced a kind of schizophrenia. Administrators have their doubts about the efficacy of online instruction, but they also know that an in-house cyber option can realize substantial savings. The cost of educating a student at Cougar can be as low as \$3,000—almost a fourth of the cost of sending a non-special education student to a cyber school outside the district.

In June, I spoke with the district’s superintendent, Dr. Sybil Knight-Burney, and Mary Lou Sypolt, the coordinator of pupil services, in the district’s administrative offices on Front Street. Initially, when I asked for an overview of Cougar Academy, their comments were positive. But when pressed for measures of success, they struggled to produce meaningful answers. “I’ve seen cases of success, but I don’t have any research,” Sypolt said. Knight-Burney could think of just one example: a girl who had gotten pregnant and used the online courses to catch up on missed work. They began to qualify their assessment. “To be honest with you, when we had about 88 kids starting, we thought this could be successful,” Knight-Burney said. “We learned, ‘Wow, this is very tough coursework.’”

When I observed that other Pennsylvania cyber charters had struggled to produce good results, Knight-Burney suddenly sounded relieved. She, too, had doubts about the benefits of learning online. “Now we’re finding out the reality of it,” she said. “We’re getting kids back

to Brothers Pizzeria. The school, which last year enrolled more than 6,600 students from across the state, is one of Pennsylvania’s five largest charters. (Of the remaining four, all but one are cyber charters.) Like many other online schools, Commonwealth Connections is the local branch of a nationwide education provider—in this case, Connections Academy, which has schools in 24 states. On the occasion of the launch of a new curriculum initiative, the academy was hosting an open house.

Wilson greeted me out front, wearing a pinstripe suit and a glossy pink tie. An administrator at the school in 2010 and 2011, he had left briefly to work under the former state education secretary, Ron Tomalis, as a special assistant focusing on the department’s oversight of charter schools. He returned to Commonwealth Connections over the summer, following Gov. Tom Corbett’s abrupt dismissal of Tomalis in May, and now serves as the school’s director of government relations and outreach.

We walked to an empty classroom equipped with a Smart Board and projector, the room still smelling fresh and new. Wilson, an ardent defender of cyber schools, had advised me in an email that there was “so much misunderstanding and misinformation out there” about online education. He told me that a cyber school like Commonwealth Connections was suited to any number of needs. It could free up a student’s schedule to focus on



athletics, dance or acting; it could allow them to complete school while holding down a job; it could enable faster study for the gifted. Online learning, he said, was geared to the current generation of young people, whom he described as “digital natives.” “Everything they do is customized, geared towards ‘me,’” he said.

We headed outside, where he showed me one of the school’s signature assets: a mobile classroom, a 38-foot orange bus retrofitted with WiFi, computers and lab equipment, which travels around the region providing cyber students with hands-on activities. On board, surrounded by a multitude of brand-new equipment, I raised the topic of funding for cyber schools.

Wilson has no doubt that charter funding is equitable; if anything, he thinks local districts keep more money than they’re due. When a district reimburses a charter school, he estimated, the formula allows it to retain about 20 percent of tuition costs, “even though they don’t participate in the education of that student.”

“When a student ends up here, there’s a reason they’ve made that choice,” he said. “The bottom line is, they’ve made that choice. It’s not a school that’s entitled to funding. It’s taxpayer dollars.”

I had a similar experience with representatives of Agora Cyber Charter, another of the state’s largest online schools. Kevin Corcoran, Agora’s assistant head of school, told me he saw cyber learning as a viable alternative for “kids who don’t feel satisfied or served” in traditional public school. He invited me to attend Agora’s statewide graduation ceremony, which took place at Hershey Park stadium in June, and where I watched a diverse crowd of evidently proud parents applaud as their sons and daughters accepted their diplomas.

But when it came to questions about funding, it was difficult to get clear answers. Agora, like most cyber charters, contracts with a for-profit service provider, purchasing a bundle of services, including curriculum, tech support and management consulting. I wanted to know what it actually cost Agora to educate an individual student, but, because of the structure of the law’s funding formula, Agora does not value its services in this way. Instead, starting from the guaranteed reimbursements from local districts, the school comes up with its per-student purchasing power. Several years ago, Corcoran told me, the average reimbursement was in the “low 7,000s,” but, by last year, it had climbed to between \$8,700 and \$8,900.

According to Corcoran, the higher the average reimbursement rate, the better the services Agora can purchase for its students. “What school wouldn’t want more money?” he said. But the money also flows to its provider, K12, Inc., where it buys things that aren’t expressly about education. Some of the money is spent on advertising, though the school would not disclose the exact amount, saying only that K12 “provides certain advertising to the school as part of a school management fee.” And some of the money is spent at the statehouse. Nationwide, K12 has spent more than \$1.2 million on lobbying over the past 10 years, according to data from FollowtheMoney.org. In Pennsylvania, it has employed 11 different lobbyists since 2009.

It’s true that cyber schools can incur substantial costs, especially for special education, and that they must find a way to provide services under fixed revenues, just like a traditional school. Yet a review of the services online schools do provide suggests they’re able to deploy substantial, costly resources. A Connections Academy promotional video, for instance, advertises “more personal attention from teachers,” who “connect with students through phone calls, emails, live online sessions and sometimes even in person.” So, while Harrisburg experiences teacher layoffs and salary cuts, Connections Academy is able to provide one-on-one instruction on demand—and still have money left over to run a first-class website, retrofit a mobile lab and purchase advertising to attract more students to the fold.

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Alongside the question of funding, of course, looms a more basic question: can a student be successfully educated online?

During my tour with Wilson, parents and students were attending a workshop on roller coaster design. The workshop was simultaneously a supplement for students and a media event, a not-uncommon combination in the world of cyber charters. Later, the group would have a virtual chat with a Hershey Park engineer, through something known as “LiveLesson technology.”

Towards the back of the room, I met the parents of a high school student who, they said, “loves” his online schooling. “As a teenager, he doesn’t have to get up in the morning,” his father said. After homeschooling their son for years, they had enrolled him in a traditional public school for seventh grade, but found that “disruptive” students in the classroom bothered him. Now that he was able to work at his own pace, he was thriving. In addition, they felt free to “not worry about the scariness of what goes on in high school.” In the school next to where they lived, in Carlisle, “there’s drugs and there’s violence,” they said.

A mother sitting nearby chimed in. She, too, had been delighted with her experience. Her son, who was dyslexic, had struggled in a traditional classroom, but in the cyber school, she said, “he gets to be him. He doesn’t have to bend so much.” Like the other





parents, she found it a relief to have options outside the district. “My kids were horrified to go to public school. But my son likes this atmosphere. It’s small. It’s private. It’s a chance for him to spread his wings far more than he ever could in a traditional public school.”

A common refrain among cyber-charter advocates is that online study allows students to work “at their own pace.” This can occasionally mean at a pace slower than in a traditional classroom, but most often it implies convenience and speed. One of the Commonwealth Connections parents, for instance, mentioned a nephew who graduated high school a full two years early. “There’s no reason for them to sit around and do nothing,” she said. Another was pleased with the possibility that students primarily interested in science, for example, could accelerate through subjects that held less interest. “They could conceivably have all their liberal arts stuff done before they get to college,” he said.

If that’s true, then perhaps the emergence of cyber school reflects a more radical change: not just in educational technology, but in what is expected of an education. I recalled what Jada Rosario, the Cougar Academy student, repeatedly said about her English courses being “easy.” Over the summer, I had paid a visit to Holly Brzycki, the director of the Capital Area Online Learning Association, or CAOLA, which provided online courses and support staff for Cougar Academy.

During a walkthrough of CAOLA’s online learning software, which included a visit to a virtual campus with an art gallery and an arcade, Brzycki opened a sample lesson in American Literature with text from the F. Scott Fitzgerald story “Winter Dreams.” At the end of the lesson was a quiz consisting of five multiple-choice questions. Brzycki explained that a student would have to score at least an 80 percent before she could move forward to the next lesson.

The first question asked which Fitzgerald novel was an extension of the themes in “Winter Dreams.” Of the four possible answers, only one, “The Great Gatsby,” was written by Fitzgerald. It occurred to me that a student could use Google to confirm this without ever having identified the themes of either “Gatsby” or “Winter Dreams.” But, when I asked Brzycki about this, she sounded unconcerned. For one, she said, students can cheat in brick-and-mortar classrooms, too. Anyway, in her belief, knowing how to Google for answers is part of what makes a well-rounded student in the 21st century. “Isn’t that a skill we want them to graduate with?” she asked.

Despite our best guesses, we scored only 60 percent, which meant we had to review the lesson and try again. This time, a “Learn More” link appeared, which took us to a supplementary video about narrative structure and anachronisms. It showed a series of short clips, including one of a man with a Mozart bouffant playing a Game Boy. The connection to “Winter Dreams” was beyond me, but no matter—the student was not required to watch and could click out of the video after about five seconds. After the video, we took the quiz again. This time, four of the five questions had us identify parts of speech. We passed.

I thought about this later when, interviewing Rosario, I asked her what sorts of things she had read for her online English class. She thought for a moment, and then said, “I think I did read ‘Huckleberry Finn.’ I think that was one of the books I had to read.”

“You think?” I asked.

“I’m pretty sure,” she said. “I don’t really remember, because it was, like, a while ago.”

Rosario is only one student, of course, but I wondered whether her inability to remember what she’d read might

reflect a fact about cyber school. From my experience with Brzycki, it appeared it was possible to pass online English through some combination of guesswork and skimming. Without a teacher in the room, how do cyber schools ensure that students are learning and not just racing through the quizzes?

Over the summer, Cougar Academy got an overhaul. In August, the district appointed Kathy Ames-Borrel, a former ESL supervisor and John Harris High School alum, as the program’s full-time director. For her interview for the post, Ames-Borrel drafted a three-year plan for expanding the academy in accordance with the recovery officer’s recommendations. To address the problem of failing students, she added phone interviews to the application process to try to ensure that parents and students would be the right fit for the cyber option. “We want to go with the mindset that cyber is not for everyone, and bricks and mortar is not for everyone,” she said.

A month and a half into the year, her adjustments seem to have met with some success. Of the 26 students enrolled at the time of this writing, seven had returned to the district from cyber charters. Another Ames-Borrel initiative was to divide the online school into several tiers, requiring students to demonstrate self-discipline before being granted complete independence. Upon enrollment, students enter a 45-day trial period, during which they take their classes on laptops, but do so in the confines of the drop-in center at the school, supervised by teachers. At the end of the trial period, they can progress to full-time study at home, or to a mixture of home and classroom study. (They can also have their trial period extended, if they haven’t successfully adapted to learning online.)

Not everyone is thrilled with the new arrangement. Allison Burris, who moved this year to SciTech Campus, a smaller, selective school within the district, regards the trial period as essentially a negation of the purpose of online learning. “You can’t require a kid to come in,” she said. “That isn’t cyber school.” There are rumors of resentment among teachers, who feel they’ve been reduced to the role of babysitter. Burris had heard stories of students spending the whole day on cell phones or looking at YouTube videos.

In addition, there are signs that the pressure to meet financial objectives has led to haphazard implementation. Just before the start of the year, the district abruptly changed service providers, abandoning CAOLA in favor of a group called Compass Learning. Veno, the recovery officer, told me the choice was a cost-cutting measure: the school already subscribed to Compass for online supplements, which could easily be adapted for full-time study. But the decision will also require the district to negotiate out of its two-year contract with CAOLA, which Brzycki, CAOLA’s director, said she intends to enforce, at a cost of \$26,000. (Some have suspected other motives for the switch. One John Harris teacher, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told me that the school “got Compass because it’s easier for our students to pass.”)

To some extent, the recent growth of cyber learning parallels the emergence of any disruptive technology. Institutions, in their effort to catch up with the latest invention, will naturally find themselves stumbling through a transitional phase. What’s unique about the cyber-school proliferation, though, is that the primary incentive—the need to compete financially—is largely a creature of the legislature’s making. The state, in applying the current funding formula, has put extraordinary pressure on districts to make changes that they might

otherwise have avoided.

In late September, I spoke with Ames-Borrel about how Cougar’s second year was going. Our conversations had soured somewhat, after she and Veno had declined my request to visit the classroom itself, on the grounds that the program was “still in its infancy.” But she was able to explain some of the reasons she thought cyber education could help certain students. The computer program had the ability to detect which skills were most difficult for each student and could tailor future lessons to address those areas. It could also create individualized reports for the teachers, who could then pull the student aside for “targeted intervention.”

Are these things that teachers couldn’t do without computers? I thought of a passage in “Player Piano,” the Kurt Vonnegut novel about a society run by engineers, in which a manager asks his subordinate to come up with an instrument for detecting mice in a factory. Meanwhile, he is holding and petting a cat.

Ames-Borrel and I went back and forth for several minutes about what, exactly, a teacher did in the classroom of Cougar Academy. I couldn’t understand how a single math teacher, for example, could provide instruction to a room full of students across all four years, all simultaneously working on different subjects. I observed that, in my high school math class, if a student started doing science homework, he’d get in trouble. Was that not the case at Cougar?

“No, and—” Ames-Borrel sounded frustrated. “I don’t even know where these questions are coming from. Like, really? It’s online learning. There isn’t a true comparison. What we’re trying to do in these 45 days is teach the students how to be online learners. So, in the course of your day, you may decide, ‘I’m gonna check email first, then I’m gonna do this, then I’m gonna check my Facebook, then I’ll do Twitter.’ Those are all things that you do because you have unlimited access to those resources, because you’re online. One of the things about online learning is that you have the option to choose and do the things that interest you, or whatever. There is no prescribed time.”

In that case, I thought, teachers at Cougar Academy were hardly teachers at all—they were more like instructional training wheels, to help the students transition to self-guided learning at home. Of course, that’s ultimately the experiment of cyber school: to see whether some or all of a teacher’s functions can be fulfilled by programmable devices.

I thought of a moment during my walkthrough with Brzycki in June. At one point, in the school’s virtual study hall, we entered what’s known as a “whiteboard session,” an interval of teacher-led instruction on a digital chalkboard. A handful of student avatars stood in the room, along with a pair of teachers. Brzycki approached one, and a chat box opened. She explained she was an administrator on a tour.

Where are you? Brzycki typed into the chat box.

Pittsburgh, the teacher replied.

What do you teach?

Math.

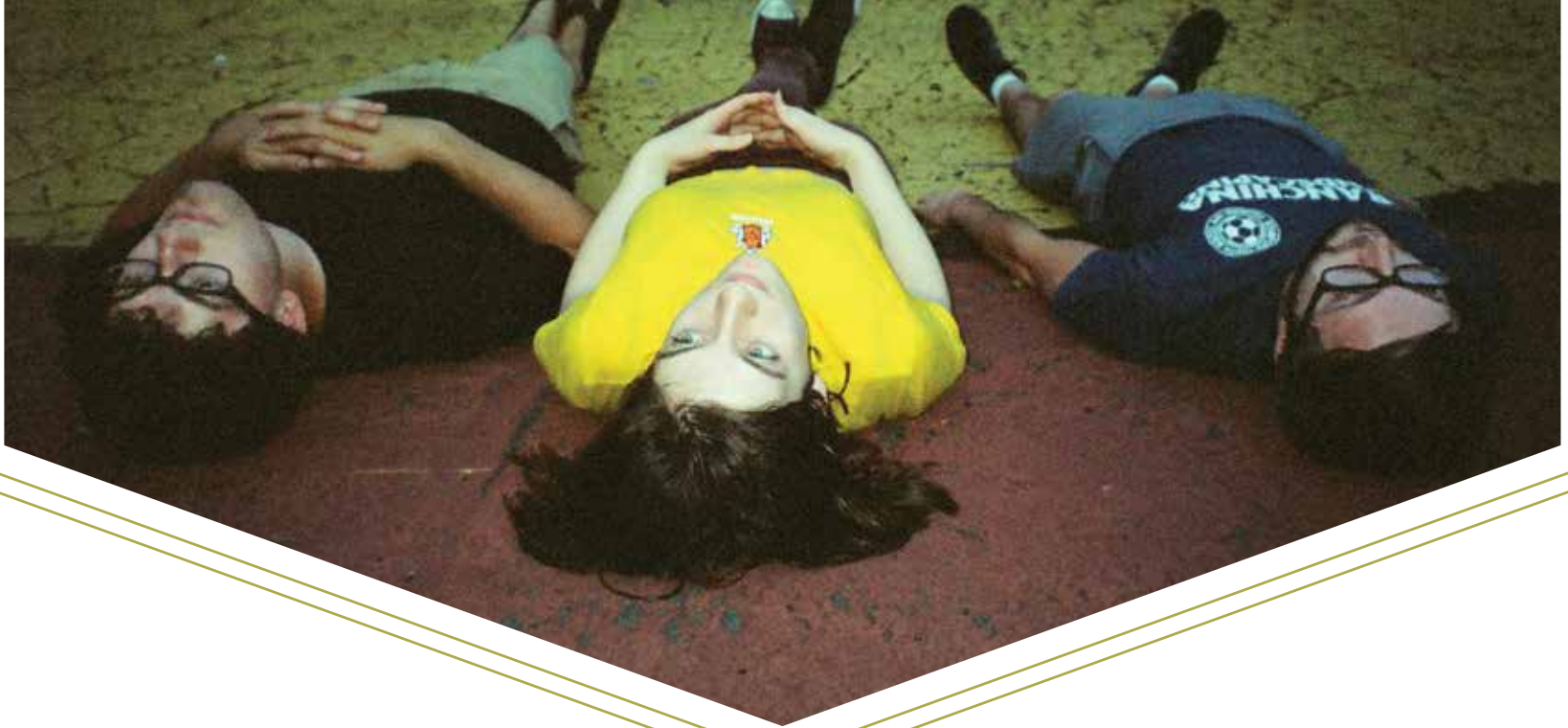
We asked the teacher for a whiteboard session on how to solve for  $x$ . But, for reasons unknown to Brzycki, the program was acting buggy. There were long lags between the teacher’s marks on the board, and for a while the screen went black. When we finally exited the session, the virtual lab was empty, and Brzycki’s avatar stood alone. “Uh-oh,” she said. She clicked around in vain.

“Our teachers are gone,” she said. **B**









In various evenings across Harrisburg, crowds gather outside coffee shops, bars and art galleries. The crowds are small—just like the venues—but eager.

Inside, as microphones are tested and levels adjusted, road weary bands chat casually. But who are these out-of-town musicians stopping for an evening at The MakeSpace or Little Amps as they travel the country? With tour dates in far larger locales like Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore or New York, why even bother stopping in Pennsylvania's modest capital?

I reached out to two bands that recently stopped in Harrisburg while on tour to get a better sense of our city's appeal.

Good Graeff, a pop-folk band hailing from Sarasota, Fla., is the perfect expression of twin sisters Brooke and Brittany's incurable wanderlust. They decided to make the transition to full-time music-making after crossing paths in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2012. Since then, they have cut an EP, "Better Half," purchased a converted sleeper van that they have lovingly christened "Roosevelt" and taken to the road full-time. They made their latest stop in Harrisburg last month at The MakeSpace.

Liz Hogg formed Beach Arabs, a surf-rock band from Brooklyn, N.Y., in 2010 with fellow students from LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts. The current line-up has solidified around bassist Nathaniel Sabat and drummer Andrew Orenstein. They have recorded two LPs, "Under the Whale" and "Wild Movement," while building a loyal fan base by playing shows within New York's expansive network of intimate venues. As part of their first tour outside of the New York metro area, they played at the downtown Gingerbread Man in August.

## MUSICAL NETWORKS &gt;&gt;&gt;

Harrisburg's geographic placement midway between other venues makes the city a convenient booking. Do-it-yourself bands are touring without the support of labels and typically do not know exactly how much money they will receive for

playing. Thus, the mileage between tour stops becomes a concern.

"We are just hoping to make enough gas money to get to the next place," says Brittany Graeff.

Beach Arabs' stop was similarly motivated.

“We already had shows in Philly and Allentown,” says Hogg. “In the process of booking those shows, we were given names of a handful of Harrisburg promoters, one being Peter Allan. I wrote him, and he asked us to play at the Gingerbread Man downtown.”

Hogg's experience illustrates the interconnectedness of Harrisburg's small music community. Allan serves as a manager at Little Amps and is often instrumental in bringing bands to the city. His own experience as a wanderer has connected him with musical networks in other cities, links vital for the small, DIY band.

Local musicians are also essential for supporting touring bands. Allan's band, Baby Brains, opened for Beach Arabs; Catamt/Coyote supported Good Graeff during their August stop.

Local acts help draw crowds. Many of these out-of-town bands lack name recognition. Thus, crowds come to see a Harrisburg band they already enjoy while knowing that they'll also get an opportunity to discover new music. It is no coincidence that Harrisburg's newfound status as an excellent tour destination correlates with the emergence of excellent musicians that call the city home.

UP AND COMING >>>>>>>>>

For both bands, a stop in Harrisburg came with low expectations. However, “the lower the expectations, the better everything turns out,” says Brooke Graeff, with a laugh.

True, Harrisburg lies on the intersection of Pennsylvania's main interstates, but, for the bands, Harrisburg proved to be a highlight, not just a pit stop.

"We've hit a lot of cities on the tour, and people in every city say that their city is up and coming," says Graeff. "Harrisburg is the first place that actually felt like one."

But what makes Harrisburg so inviting to artists? Good Graeff was blown away by the reception that they received.

"People came to the show and they had no idea who we were," says Brittany Graeff. "There are so many artists here who understand what the artistic life is about, and they support bands who come through."

Liz Hogg had a similar experience with Beach Arabs. "Harrisburg has a great sense of community, in which everyone knows each other through real life, face-to-face contact," she says.

Hogg adds that, the next day, prior to traveling on to the next date, she met plenty of people who had gone to the show.

"Everyone in Harrisburg seemed to love and patronize art of all sorts, from the ground up," she says.

COMING BACK >>>>>>>>>>>>>>

The more I listened to Liz, Brittany, and Brooke, the more I realized how lucky I am as a music-lover living in a small city. After playing in larger places, Brittany and Brooke noted that many cities take good music for granted.

“People would come just to see one band and leave. Even the bands would play their set and then leave. It was really disheartening to see such indifference,” says Brooke.

And perhaps that is what makes Harrisburg so inviting—we know that bands stopping here isn't a given.

As Hogg put it, "Harrisburg offers bands a sense of comfort and security, as well as a general sense that they're being appreciated."

Brooke Graeff agrees. “We were taken aback by how excited people were to have a band coming through. It was so wonderful, we had to book Harrisburg again.” **B**

*Check out Beach Arabs at [beacharabs.bandcamp.com](http://beacharabs.bandcamp.com)  
and Good Graeff at [goodgraeff.com](http://goodgraeff.com)*





## JERSEY JAM

*Out-of-state bands migrate to central PA.*

BY DAN WEBSTER

**B**order state musicians attack the center of the Keystone this November. MCs from Columbus, Ohio, and two bands from central Jersey—the rock ‘n’ roll breeding ground of the East—will peddle their musical wares to our own growing music scene. Love thy neighbor as yourself (or however that command goes) and take in their talent.

JUGGLING SUNS, APPALACHIAN BREWING COMPANY, NOV. 1, DOORS AT 8 P.M.: Intel is slim on this jam band from Perth Amboy, N.J. They are greatly inspired by The Grateful Dead and have personally played for one of the most famous deadheads of all, Bill Walton, the great basketball player and mediocre sports broadcaster. Mark Diomedé, the frontman, has shared the stage with Santana and Bruce Springsteen. For you jam band aficionados and Grateful Dead lovers, this one’s for you.

GREENHOUSE CREW, APPALACHIAN BREWING COMPANY, NOV. 8, DOORS AT 8 P.M.: Illogic and Blueprint are old school MCs from Columbus and spit many social and environmental justice rap sermonettes. “Microwave America,” off their first full-length album, “Bend Don’t Break,” immerses you in their dense socio-econo-politico-enviro motifs. Good for ABC for bringing in some underground rap.

RIVER CITY EXTENSION, FEDLIVE, NOV. 23, DOORS AT 8:30 P.M.: This band from Toms River, a stone’s throw from Asbury Park, the mini-mecca of rock ‘n’ roll, is so many things, but above all, they’re just an excellent band. Joe Micheline, the frontman, can croon like Conor Oberst in “Standing Outside a Southern Riot,” blend in with a sweet-sounding duet in “If You Need Me Back in Brooklyn,” and provide lush vocals in “The Ballad of Oregon,” a song about losing oneself in more expansive lands. River City is exactly that, expansive and dynamic. They have received praise from Paste and NPR for many reasons. **B**

*Mentionables: Rebecca Miller, Appalachian Brewing Company, Nov. 7, doors at 8 p.m. / Here Come the Mummies, FedLive, Nov. 15, doors at 8 p.m. / John Gorka, Midtown Scholar Bookstore, Nov. 14, doors at 7 p.m. / The Clarks, Appalachian Brewing Company, Nov. 30, doors at 8 p.m.*

11 | 1

JUGGLING SUNS, NOV. 1  
APPALACHIAN BREWING CO.  
50 N. CAMERON ST.,  
HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 8 P.M.

11 | 8

GREENHOUSE CREW, NOV. 8  
APPALACHIAN BREWING CO.  
50 N. CAMERON ST.,  
HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 8 P.M.

11 | 14

JOHN GORKA, NOV. 14  
MIDTOWN SCHOLAR  
1302 N. 3RD ST., HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 7 P.M.

11 | 23

RIVER CITY EXTENSION, NOV. 23  
FEDLIVE, 234 N. 2ND ST.,  
HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 8:30 P.M.



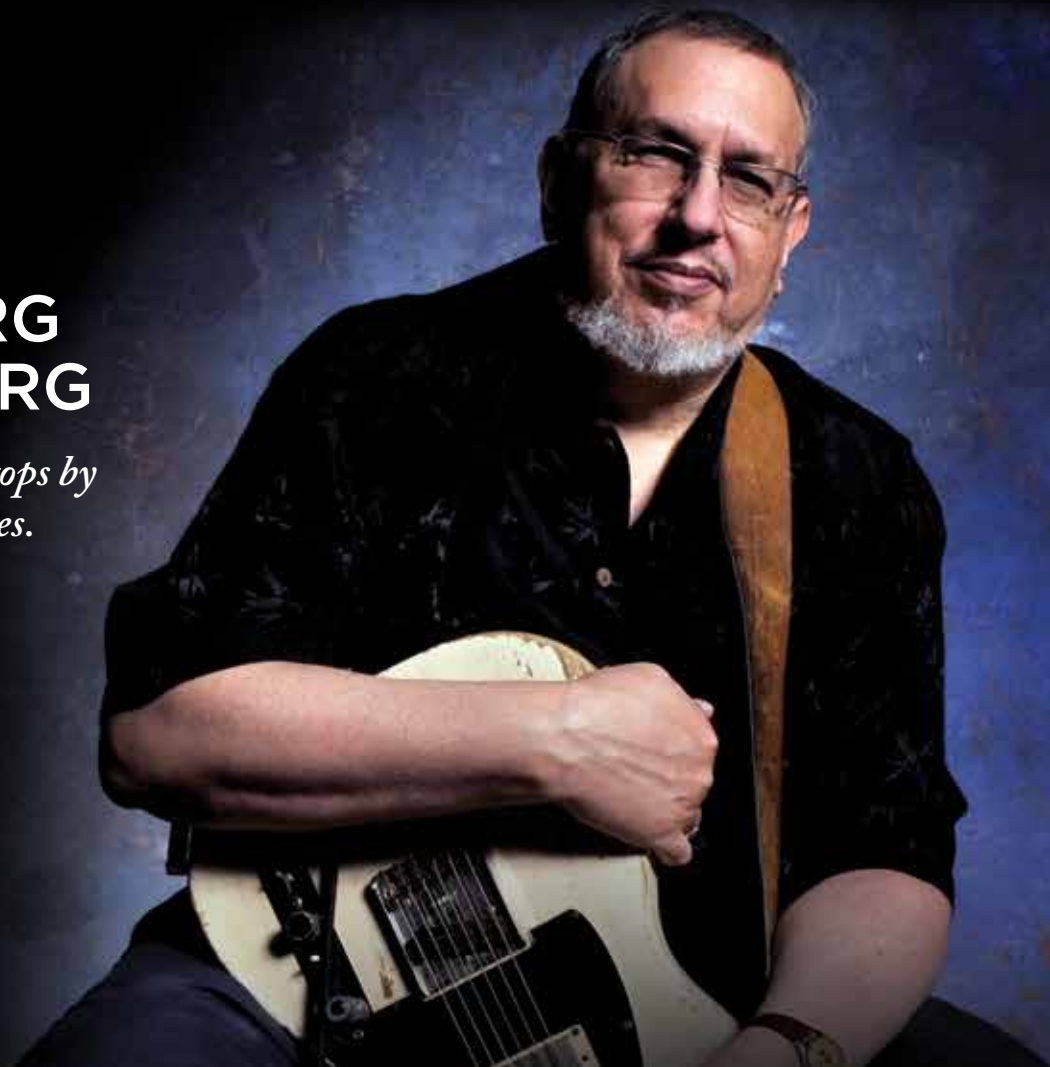
*Juggling Suns (photo credit: bbkingblues.com)*



# BROMBERG IN THE 'BURG

*Legendary musician stops by  
to strum a few tunes.*

BY JESS HAYDEN



In a career that has spanned more than 45 years and has included numerous solo recordings and prolific studio work, David Bromberg has made an indelible mark on American music.

He has served as sideman with some of the most respected artists in the field, and his quirky mystique has established a devoted following for his live shows and solo CDs. Adept at playing a multitude of genres, Bromberg jumps easily from folk, blues and rock to bluegrass, country and jazz. Best known for his virtuosic guitar work, he is also a strikingly gifted multi-instrumentalist who excels on mandolin, Dobro, pedal steel guitar and fiddle.

Bromberg calls himself a “musician’s musician” because so much of his work has been in collaboration with other artists.

“I’ve been all over the map,” he said during a recent interview. “I wrote a song with George Harrison. I’ve played with people like Bob Dylan, Phoebe Snow, Tom Paxton and Carly Simon. I’ve also recorded with Blood, Sweat and Tears, Rick Derringer, Dr. John and John Prine.”

“All in all,” he said, “I’m on over 150 recordings of other people’s.”

Those that have followed the

trajectory of Bromberg’s career know that he established his own band back in the 1970s to give attention to the roots music that he loved, as well as his growing repertoire of originals.

By the mid-’70s, the David Bromberg Big Band included horn players, a violinist, several multi-instrumentalists and such notable members as mandolinist Andy Statman and fiddler Jay Ungar. For 10 years, the David Bromberg Big Band crisscrossed the states delighting audiences with high-energy music and slyly humorous songs such as “Sharon,” “Suffer to Sing the Blues,” “The Hold-Up” and “I Will Not Be Your Fool.”

At the height of the band’s popularity, Bromberg surprised his fans by suddenly dissolving it. The rigors of the road and the countless days of being away from home had begun to wear on him, and he had decided to take his life in a different direction.

“My career was doing really well at the time, but I just didn’t feel that I was a musician anymore,” he said. “I didn’t want to be one of these guys who drags himself on the stage and does a bitter imitation of something that he used to love.”

For the next 22 years, Bromberg was rarely seen on the concert stage,

but instead moved to Chicago with his wife to pursue an interest in instrument building at the Kenneth Warren School of Violin Making.

“I found it really fascinating that a person could look at an instrument, and, by looking at it, tell when and where it was built and by whom,” he said. “That’s what I wanted to do, so I felt I had to learn how they were made, or make them myself, to really know how to look at them.”

After studying awhile, Bromberg opened David Bromberg Fine Violins, a retail store and repair shop for high-quality instruments in Wilmington, Del. Workers in the shop build and repair the violins while Bromberg does the appraisals.

Frequent participation in Wilmington’s weekly jam sessions helped rekindle Bromberg’s desire to make music again. So now he’s back on the road with his big band, as well as in smaller configurations. Seeing him live in concert, it’s clear that his two-decade hiatus has done him good. He has returned to the stage with renewed enthusiasm—joyfully sharing his masterful playing, stirring vocals and eclectic repertoire with audiences.

Since returning to the spotlight, Bromberg has made a few recordings,

including the solo CD, “Try Me One More Time,” which was named a finalist in the “Best Traditional Folk Recording” category of the Grammy Awards. He says his latest CD, “Only Slightly Mad,” which came out just last month, is the best recording that he has ever done.

“We recorded it at Levon Helm’s famous barn in Woodstock, N.Y.,” he said. “It’s mostly my band, but I did bring in a few ringers like my old friend John Sebastian, who came in and played harmonica on one track, and John McEuen from the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, who had wandered into the studio, and I made him get out his banjo and play on one track.” **E**

*You can catch David Bromberg in a solo performance at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 17, at the Abbey Bar at Appalachian Brewing Co., 50 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg. Information and tickets are available at [www.sfnfolk.org](http://www.sfnfolk.org), by calling 800-838-3006 and at the door if not sold out in advance.*

*Jess Hayden is executive director of the Susquehanna Folk Music Society.*



# GOOD LORD, FOR ALLIANCE!\*

*HATA brings area theaters together for common goals.*

BY LORI M. MYERS



*Dave Olmstead*

*Brenda C. Eppley*

It happened quite by accident, in the midst of a conversation that Brenda C. Eppley, professor of theater at Harrisburg Area Community College, was having with a director at Allenberry Playhouse. At the time, the economy was taking a downturn, and that director noticed that this region didn't have a mechanism by which theaters here could support one another—each seemed to be going it all alone.

"The news was saturated with stories of theater closings due to financial loss," Eppley recalls. "Theater is my passion, and I am connected both professionally and personally as a performer, educator and audience member."

So Eppley took that passion and got to work. She approached her friend and HACC colleague, Dave Olmstead, a theater instructor/director/designer, and the two discussed the idea of creating the Harrisburg Area Theatre Alliance or HATA, which would join together this area's regional theaters to strengthen their missions and help ensure their longevity. As educators, the two had witnessed theater's powerful effects on their college students. They saw how, even if a student decided not to choose theater as a career, that influence proved positive as he or she became an involved member of a community.

Eppley and Olmstead approached Gamut Theatre, Open Stage of Harrisburg, Theatre Harrisburg, and HACC's theater program, believing that each represented a cross-section of theater in the area. They discussed HATA's mission of uniting, strengthening, promoting and advancing the theater community in Pennsylvania's capital region and forming a central hub of information for those

working onstage and behind the scenes.

"We thought it was fantastic, but what if they thought we were out of our minds?" Olmstead says. "Thankfully, as we talked to each group, it was so exciting to see their reactions and their enthusiasm for this project."

Indeed, Samuel Kuba, executive director at Theatre Harrisburg, thought it was a great idea, although the theaters had already formed close relationships over the years.

"The fact that we all knew and actually liked each other made the hard work necessary for the creation of HATA a much more pleasant process," Kuba says. "We definitely had—and continue to have—a good time."

Several networking events have already been held and another is coming up this month. It is a free event that is open to theaters, schools, actors, designers and patrons.

"It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet with other theater lovers and practitioners, share resumes and headshots and generally bask in the gloriousness that is the theater community of central PA," Olmstead says.

Despite theater's long history and multitude of transformations, the struggle for survival continues as financial support from government, community and arts organizations decreases. Eppley and Olmstead want HATA to be at the forefront of ensuring theater's continuance and growth in our area.

"We know that in order for (theater) to continue to survive and thrive, we must nurture and advocate for it," Olmstead says. "We must be willing to adapt and change, as well. We are in the midst of a maelstrom of

technology and social media revolution."

HATA's board currently consists of representatives from the four theater groups, and memberships have begun from other area theater organizations and colleges. Soon, individual memberships will be accepted. Membership is open to any theater, professional or amateur, including high schools, and anyone with a shared interest in theater.

As far as the future for the organization, Eppley is very hopeful. Her vision, she says, is to expand the impact of theater by greatly increasing the audience base and strengthening support in the community and government to "ensure that we don't merely exist, but thrive."

"We simply, as a society, cannot afford to lose theaters or theater programs," she says. "Our region is rich with theater offerings, and I am still surprised that a significant number of theater enthusiasts are unaware of much of the theater activity in this area. That needs to change."

With HATA's help, Olmstead is confident that it will.

"I believe that theater will see a renaissance in this area," he says. "But wouldn't it be great if someday we didn't need an organization like HATA because theater had become an integrated part of our culture, our schooling and our lives? We would all truly embrace the power of live theater, and that would be a great thing." **B**

*HATA holds its next networking event on Saturday, Nov. 9, noon to 2 p.m., in the Rose Lehrman Arts Center at HACC. You can visit HATA on Facebook.*

*\* William Shakespeare, "Much Ado about Nothing"*



# BRINGING IT BACK(STAGE)

*Much of the action in theater takes place out of sight.*

BY BARBARA TRAININ BLANK



Joyce O'Donnell



Dan Burke



Gwen Alsedek



Jane Hess

Dan Burke relishes a good fight. Onstage. The actor has played characters tough (Macbeth) and gentle (Friar Lawrence) and has directed. He will stage “The Dresser” at Gamut Theatre Group in 2014 and is a founding member of Stage Door Company, an offshoot of Gamut.

But Burke’s most unique role may be that of fight choreographer. “I like all aspects of theater,” he said. “But I really enjoy a fight.”

Burke took stage violence as an elective in his freshman year of college and liked it so much he continued with the course all four years.

He has choreographed fights for Gamut and other area theaters, including Open Stage of Harrisburg, Hershey Area Playhouse and Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg.

He’s been an instructor at Lebanon Valley College—he calls teaching on the college level “a dream come true”—and recently worked with the Harlem Shakespeare Festival and the Shakespeare’s People Project at Millersville University.

“Safety is first and foremost,” said Burke, who has his own company, Safe Violence. “Our tagline is ‘Keep your actors and audiences safe—and keep the violence real.’”

His interest arose in part from a childhood love of magic tricks. For him, stage violence is, to a large degree, magic. “Done effectively, the audience gets fooled. It intrigues me to fool people,” he laughed.

Jane Hess has loved theater for years. She sang in choruses and choirs and

saw lots of shows, mostly at Allenberry Playhouse, from high school on.

But the only time you’ll find Hess on stage is “pushing a piece of the scenery,” if that’s what called for. Hess is a volunteer extraordinaire for Theatre Harrisburg—a Jill of all trades and a master of many.

Since retiring from the Harrisburg School District in 2006, Hess has stepped up her involvement. Since many of her friends perform or participate in Theatre Harrisburg, it “seemed natural” to start attending and volunteering.

She started by ushering when asked to by one friend, Rich Askey, who was music-directing a show at the community theater, but since then has produced or co-produced musicals. She has painted sets, collected props, assembled costumes, done spotlights and, yes, pushed scenery. She’s provided casts with water and snacks.

“I like doing a little bit of everything,” Hess said.

Ask Gwen Alsedek which show she liked most, and she’ll reply, “The last one I worked on.” But push Open Stage’s resident costume designer further, and she’ll admit her “favorite” is “The Big Bang.” Everything on stage becomes something else—a prop or costume. “That was a challenge,” she said.

While an undergraduate at Kutztown University, Alsedek was asked to help take care of the costume shop as part of her work-study job. “I walked into the room with a pile of clothing, which was a total mess,” she recalled.

Alsedek learned about budget limitations when a fellow student was given \$500 to create five costumes for a

production of “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” She helped her friend meet that challenge.

There are others. Alsedek has had to sew people into costumes on opening nights and struggle with ornery zippers.

“I find the challenges interesting,” said Alsedek, who holds a master’s degree in fine arts and trained at the Missouri Repertory Theater.

Her interest in clothing goes back to playing with dolls and the quilting tradition of her Berks County upbringing. Not to mention her theatrical family—her mother and brother, Donald, were active in Theatre Harrisburg before he co-founded Open Stage.

In theater, necessity is often the mother of invention. That’s the case with Joyce O’Donnell, costume designer for Oyster Mill Playhouse.

Her first theater experience was in high school as an unintended assistant costumer for a musical revue. O’Donnell was in the dance group, but enlisted to make skirts with nets for herself and the other members.

“Next year, I got stuck with it again,” she laughed.

At the time, “it” didn’t suggest a job title. O’Donnell didn’t know the formal profession of costume designer existed.

She has since found out. O’Donnell has been affiliated with Oyster Mill Playhouse from when it was called Met Rep. She also worked for Sharon Hillegas, one of Met Rep’s founders, at Fishing Creek Playhouse.

At first, O’Donnell did a lot of acting and directing, but has morphed into “basically OMP’s resident

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**“IT TAKES A LOT OF PEOPLE BACKSTAGE AS GOOD AS THE CASTS ARE TO PULL OFF A GOOD SHOW.”**

**–JANE HESS, VOLUNTEER**

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costume designer.”

Her interest in costumes dates back to childhood. She loved playing dress-up and exploring her mother’s jewelry box. She even got into trouble once for using the “expensive stuff.” On the other hand, her best friend had an extensive dress-up box, with freer access.

O’Donnell was also inspired by her “idol,” Theatre Harrisburg’s costume designer, Paul Foltz. And she is grateful to the many volunteers who help dress the actors and assisted in setting up a costume rental program for schools, other theaters and individuals.

A retired lab technician, O’Donnell comes into Oyster Mill six days a week. “I also lie in bed for an hour thinking how to accessorize,” she said. “Theater has always been my first love. Where else can you play dress-up with other people at age 72?” **B**

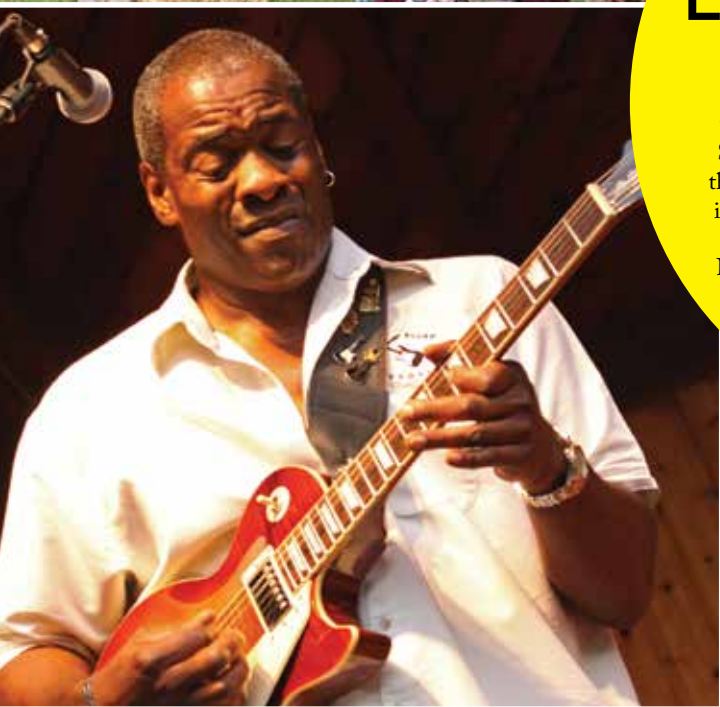




## FESTIVAL AT LITTLE BUFFALO

Last month, the Festival at Little Buffalo celebrated its 30th anniversary with an array of great music, tasty food and a variety of fascinating performances. Sponsored by the Perry County Council of the Arts, the event started from humble origins and has evolved into one of our region's premier celebrations of music and art, held annually at Little Buffalo State Park in Newport. You can follow the planning for next year's festival at [www.littlebuffalofestival.com](http://www.littlebuffalofestival.com). **B**

*Photos by Missy Smith*







## COMMUNITY CORNER

### Halloween Ghost Tour

Nov. 1: Enjoy a candlelight ghost tour through a centuries-old mansion. The spooky tour of Harris-Cameron Mansion will include stories of old Harrisburg, giving a rare peak into the creaks and glimmers of a building's past. The tour begins at 7 p.m. and admission is \$15, \$5 for children under 12. Call 717-233-3462 for reservations.

### Fixing the Immigration System

Nov. 2: Be a part of the immigration dialog as the Harrisburg Friends Meeting (Quakers) and the Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice hold a free public program at the Quaker Meetinghouse, 1100 N. 6th St., Harrisburg. The meeting will also include a documentary screening and presentations from scholars in the field. There will be a potluck dinner provided at 6 p.m. followed by the program at 7:15 p.m. For more information, call Kay Pickering at 717-233-3072.

### Halloween Dance Party

Nov. 2: Dress up and join the LGBT Center and Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus for a spooktacular ghoulish dance party to benefit the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus at the Harrisburg Maennerchor on North Street. Prizes for the best costume will be awarded along with a raffle and 50/50 drawings throughout the night. Doors open at 9 p.m. and tickets are \$10 a person. For more information, visit [centralpalgbtcenter.org](http://centralpalgbtcenter.org).

### Meet Mr. Lincoln

Nov. 2: Stop by the National Civil War Museum as President Abraham Lincoln (really James Hayney) speaks and leads a discussion regarding the Gettysburg Address. Hayney's discussion will begin at 1 p.m. and conclude at 2 p.m. Tickets to the discussion are included with general admission to the museum. For more information, visit [nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](http://nationalcivilwarmuseum.org).

### "Out of Festival" Night of Comedy

Nov. 2: The Harrisburg Jewish Film Festival presents "When Comedy Went to School," a documentary exploring the birth of modern stand-up comedy in the "borscht belt" of the Catskill Mountains. Stop by the Jewish Community Center in Harrisburg at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy the film, as well as a live stand-up performance by comedian Nancy Redman. Tickets are \$10 at the door. For more information, visit [hbajff.com](http://hbajff.com).

### Cornucopia Wine Quest

Nov. 3: Travel to more than 12 participating wineries and taste the fruits of the season. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., participating wineries will host local street vendors, alongside tastings, as guests enjoy their own wine quest. For more information, tickets and participating wineries, visit [hersheyharrisburgwinecountry.com](http://hersheyharrisburgwinecountry.com).

### The Middle East Riddle

Nov. 6: Join the Culture Club of Central PA with a presentation led by Medhi Noorbaksh discussing the Middle East's effect on international relations. Noorbaksh is an associate professor at Harrisburg University with multiple articles published on the subject of the Middle East and Iran. The presentation will be held at the Hershey Medical Center at 7 p.m. For more information and details, visit [worldcultureclubpa.org](http://worldcultureclubpa.org).

### Vision Resources Dinner

Nov. 7: Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania will hold its signature dinner event, "An Evening in the Shadows," from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Civic Club of Harrisburg. The five-course meal will be specially prepared for the evening by Karen's Catering, and each course will be paired with a different wine from Waltz Vineyards. Tickets are \$75 per person. To learn about Vision Resources or to purchase tickets, visit [www.vrocp.org](http://www.vrocp.org) or call 717-238-2531.

### Autos & Ales

Nov. 8: Be a part of the AACA Museum's unique annual Beer Fest. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and close at 10 p.m. The fun-filled evening will include beer tastings, a free wing contest, live music, brewing demonstrations and antique car, truck and motorcycle memorabilia. Admission is \$40 in advance and \$45 on the night. For more information, visit [autosandales.com](http://autosandales.com).

### Presidents Circle Gala

Nov. 8: Show your support for the Ned Smith Center at this premiere fundraising event at the Country Club of Harrisburg. The night will feature a cocktail buffet, live and silent auctions, musical entertainment and more. Tickets are \$175 per person, \$300 per couple and \$1,000 per group of eight. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.nedsmithcenter.org](http://www.nedsmithcenter.org).

### FAB 2013

Nov. 9: Join the LGBT Center for a fabulous night of fundraising and support at the Hilton Harrisburg from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. The evening will include live music by the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus and Central PA Womyn's Chorus, as well as live painting by street artist Tyler Wallach. Tickets are \$125 or \$100 before Oct. 1. For more information, visit [centralpalgbtcenter.org](http://centralpalgbtcenter.org).

### Wreaths for a Reason

Nov. 12-14: A silent auction and sale of homemade holiday wreaths takes place at Strawberry Square, Harrisburg, starting each day at 7 a.m. and closing at 6 p.m. Proceeds benefit Shalom House, a homeless shelter for women and their children on Allison Hill. More information at [www.shalomhouse.net](http://www.shalomhouse.net).

### CPGLCC Networking Mixer

Nov. 14: Bring your business cards and professional attire to the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Business Mixer at Alder Health in Lancaster. The mixer will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at 8 p.m. Registration is \$10. For more information and registration, visit [www.cpglcc.org](http://www.cpglcc.org).

### Chamber & CREDC Business Expo

Nov. 14: Grow your business and brand while supporting the local business community at the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC Business Expo in the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Attendees will be given the opportunity to make contacts with more than 1,500 regional businesses during the day. For more information and registration, visit [harrisburgregionalchamber.org](http://harrisburgregionalchamber.org).

### Hershey Sweet Lights

Nov. 15: Get ready for the holiday as Hershey begins its annual Sweet Lights experience, which consists of more than 600 animated light displays for onlookers as they drive by. The displays, covering more than two miles of wooded trails, are located between Route 39 and Sand Beach Road in Hershey. More info at [Hersheypark.com](http://Hersheypark.com).

### Screening of "The Yellow Ticket"

Nov. 17: Chisuk Emuna Congregation in Harrisburg presents "The Yellow Ticket," a classic silent film about discrimination in tsarist Russia. World-renowned klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals and pianist Marilyn Lerner will accompany the showing. General admission is \$22, \$24 at the door. Student price is \$15. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For more information and tickets, visit [chisukemuna.org](http://chisukemuna.org).

### Central PA Oratorio Singers Concert

Nov. 17: Franz Joseph Haydn's oratorio, "The Seven Last Words of Christ," is performed at 3 p.m. at Market Square Presbyterian Church, 20 S. 2nd St., Harrisburg. The concert includes a 50-voice chorus, a 23-piece orchestra and soloists. Parking is free at the adjacent Market Square Parking Garage. More information at [www.cposingers.com](http://www.cposingers.com).

### Superman Book Talk, Signing

Nov. 19: Learn about the origins of America's most beloved superhero as author Larry Tye discusses his book "Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Hero" at Beth El Temple in Harrisburg, 7:30 p.m. A question-and-answer session, book signing and dessert reception follow the presentation. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$10 for students and a \$5 discount if in costume. For more information, call 717-232-0056 or visit [betheltemplehbg.org](http://betheltemplehbg.org).

### "The Last White Knight" Screening

Nov. 21: Join the conversation as the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg Cardozo Society screens this Civil Rights-themed film followed by a related legal discussion. The screening will be held at the Jewish Community Center in Harrisburg and will begin at 7 p.m. For more information and registration, visit [jewishharrisburg.org](http://jewishharrisburg.org).

### Winter Raptor Surveys in PA

Nov. 21: Join Greg Grove, founder of the Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey program, at Christ Presbyterian Church in Camp Hill as he describes the organization and the surveys. Refreshments and social time will begin at 7 p.m. followed by the program at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit [appalachianaudubon.org](http://appalachianaudubon.org).

### Paxtang Art Association Show

Nov. 22-24: The Paxtang Art Association will hold this annual exhibition at the Paxtang Municipal Building. The event will showcase the eclectic work of more than 100 artists. Highlights will be landscapes in the Hudson River School tradition, Venetian waterscapes of the Grand Canal, Tuscan landscapes, still lifes and portraits, as well as an artists' reception. Admission is free. For more information, visit [www.paxtangart.com](http://www.paxtangart.com).

### Odd Ones Holiday Bizarre

Nov. 23: The funky and spunky collide with this alternative arts and crafts fair at the Orange Room in The Second City Church, Harrisburg. The event features music by Moviate Sound and runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free and creativity is welcome.

### Grant Durrell Music Festival

Nov. 24: The Appalachian Brewing Co. presents a music festival benefiting the Grant Durrell Memorial Fund and Aavidum, a central Pennsylvania organization serving to inspire teens and teachers to action in recognizing depression. The festival will begin at 2 p.m. and conclude at 7 p.m. \$30 for general admission. For more information, visit [abcbrew.com](http://abcbrew.com).



## MUSEUM & ART SPACES

**Antique Auto Museum at Hershey**  
161 Museum Dr., Hershey  
717-566-7100; aacamuseum.org

"It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas," galleries within the museum will be transformed into a wintery wonderland featuring Christmas trees through the ages with period decorations, Nov. 15-Jan. 5.

**Art Association of Harrisburg**  
21 N. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1432; artassocofhbg.com

"Susquehanna River Show," scenes of the Susquehanna River by Paul Gallo, David R. Henry, Steven Heffer and Steve Wetzell, through Nov. 21.

**The Cornerstone Coffeehouse**  
2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Abstract paintings by Tim Wehnert, through November.

**Fenêtre Gallery**  
HACC Midtown 2, 2nd Floor  
N. 3rd and Reily Streets, Harrisburg

"My Family and Other Animals," paintings by Cynthia Nixon, through Nov. 6.

"The Mighty Ballpoint," drawings by Cynthia Brantley, Nov. 15-Dec. 13; reception Nov. 15, 6-8 p.m.

**Gallery@Second**  
608 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
galleryatsecond.com

Works by Randy McCurdy and Jo Ann Neal, through Dec. 7.

**National Civil War Museum**  
One Lincoln Circle, Harrisburg  
717-260-1861;  
nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

"1863," an exhibit highlighting the third year of the Civil War, through Dec. 31.

"In the Service of Our Nation: Conscription during the Civil War," an exhibit examining the reasoning that led to conscription acts during the Civil War, through June 2014.

**Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art**  
176 Water Company Rd., Millersburg  
717-692-3699; nedsmithcenter.org

"Only Owls," an exhibit exploring the world of owls through a variety of stylistic approaches by more than 30 artists, through March 15.

**Rose Lehrman Arts Center**  
One HACC Drive, Harrisburg  
hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter

"At Home and Away," photographs by Paul Chaplin, Gary Dwight, Sean Simmers and John Whitehead, through Nov. 20.

**The State Museum of Pennsylvania**  
300 North St., Harrisburg  
717-787-4980; statemuseumpa.org

"Pennsylvania Watercolor Society's 33rd Annual International Juried Exhibition," an exhibit of watercolor paintings from across the globe, through Feb. 3.

**Susquehanna Art Museum**  
100 North St., Harrisburg  
sqart.org (at the State Museum)

"Construction/Destruction," a display of artwork capturing the idea of the past constructing our present community, through Dec. 1.

**Whitaker Center/The Curved Wall**  
222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; whitakercenter.org

"Holiday Trains and Trees," an annual display of model trains and themed trees, Nov. 9-Jan. 1.

**Yellow Wall Gallery/ Midtown Scholar**  
1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

"Paper Cuts," abstract paper cuttings exploring negative space and small color palettes by Mickey McGarrity, Nov. 15-Dec. 15; reception Nov. 15, 6-10 p.m.

## READ, MAKE, LEARN

**The LGBT Center of Central PA**  
1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-920-9534  
centralpalgbtcenter.org

Nov. 6: Showing of Gen Silent Film, 6 p.m.  
Nov. 7, 21: PULSE, 5 p.m.  
Nov. 7, 14: The Curve, 6 p.m.  
Nov. 7, 14: Buddhist Meditation Classes, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 7: Women's Group-LGBT History Month, 7-9 p.m.  
Nov. 8: Movies of Substance, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 14: Aging with Pride Lunchtime Discussion, noon.  
Nov. 21: Aging with Pride, 6 p.m.  
Nov. 22: Open Mic Night, 7 p.m.

**Hershey Theatre**  
15 E. Carcas Ave., Hershey  
717-534-3405; hersheytheatre.com

Nov. 11: Buddy Valastro (The Cake Boss), 7:30 p.m.

**Historical Society of Dauphin County**  
219 South Front St., Harrisburg  
717-233-3462  
dauphincountyhistory.org

Nov. 10: Second Sunday Open House, City Beautiful Movement

**The MakeSpace**  
1916 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
hbgmakespace.com

Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27: Yoga, 7:30-8:30 a.m.  
Nov. 2: Collagery, 1-2 p.m.  
Nov. 14: Untitled (Stories), 8-9 p.m.

**Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café**  
1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

Nov. 1, 8, 22, 29: Nathaniel Gadsden's Writers Wordshop and Jump Street, Inc. present Poetry Night, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 2: Storytime at the Little Scholar, 11 a.m.  
Nov. 2, 30: Middle School Book Club, 1 p.m.  
Nov. 2: One Cause One Country: Historical presentation, 5 p.m.  
Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24: TED Talks, 1 p.m.  
Nov. 4: Swing Dance at the Scholar, 6:30 p.m.  
Nov. 5: Election Day at the Scholar, 6 p.m.  
Nov. 5: Sci-Fi Writers Group, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27: Midtown Chess Club, 11 a.m.  
Nov. 7: Jump Street Big Read, 6 p.m.  
Nov. 9: Special Author Event w/Darby JO, 11 a.m.  
Nov. 9: Book Launch Party w/Hannah Bithiah Murry, 5 p.m.  
Nov. 12: Dr. Umar Johnson Talk, 6 p.m.  
Nov. 12: Young Dauphin County Democrats Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 13, 27: Sydney's Book Club-Preschool Event, 10 a.m.  
Nov. 13: Friends of Midtown; Events Meeting, 6 p.m.  
Nov. 15: Coffee Education w/Café Staff, noon.  
Nov. 15: Tea Tasting w/Café Staff, 2 p.m.  
Nov. 15: TMI Improv Troupe, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 15: Comedy Night at the Scholar, 8 p.m.  
Nov. 16: Middle School Book Club, 5 p.m.  
Nov. 16: Poison Pen Book Club, 5 p.m.  
Nov. 17: Philosophy Salon: Open Discussion, 12:30 p.m.  
Nov. 17: LGBT Book Club, 5 p.m.  
Nov. 19: Broad Street Market Community Talk, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 20: Kalpa Bhadra Buddhist Center Modern Buddhism, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 20: Sci-fi/Fantasy Book Club, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 21: George Eiseman Book Talk, 6:30 p.m.  
Nov. 21: Banned Books Book Club, 7 p.m.

Nov. 21: Uptown Poetry Cartel, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 23: Children's Book Blast-Skype, 11 a.m.  
Nov. 23: Local Author Signings, 2 p.m.  
Nov. 24: Harrisburg Young Professionals Book Club, 2 p.m.  
Nov. 25: Feminism Group Book Club, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 26: Bike the Burg, 7 p.m.

**Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat**  
City Island, Harrisburg  
717-234-6500  
HarrisburgRiverboat.com

Nov. 1, 8: Murder Mystery Cruises, 7-9 p.m.  
Nov. 2: Blues Cruise, 7:30-11 p.m.  
Nov. 9: Thanksgiving Day Cruise, 5-7 p.m.  
Nov. 10: Wine & Cheese Tasting, 6-8 p.m.

## LIVE MUSIC AROUND HARRISBURG

**Appalachian Brewing Co. / Abbey Bar**  
50 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg  
717-221-1083; abcbrew.com

Nov. 1: Juggling Suns  
Nov. 2: Cuddle Magic  
Nov. 7: Rebecca Marie Miller  
Nov. 8: Greenhouse (Blueprint, Illogic, DJ Rare, Groove)  
Nov. 9: Spiritual Rez  
Nov. 17: David Bromberg  
Nov. 27: Quagmire Swim  
Nov. 30: The Clarks

**Central PA Friends of Jazz**  
717-540-1010; friendsofjazz.org

Nov. 10: Freddy Cole (The Ware Center, Lancaster)

**The Cornerstone Coffeehouse**  
2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
717-737-5026  
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Nov. 1: Davey O.  
Nov. 2: Ed Horan  
Nov. 3: David Carr  
Nov. 8: Paul Zavinsky  
Nov. 9: Buc Hill Aces  
Nov. 10: Charles Lee  
Nov. 15: Kevin Kline  
Nov. 16: Womack & Lowery  
Nov. 17: Andrea Rudolph & Marc Cantone  
Nov. 22: Jeanine & Friends  
Nov. 23: Alex & Christie  
Nov. 24: Kat Carlson Combo  
Nov. 29: Kayla Jackson  
Nov. 30: Seasons



**FedLive**

234 N 2nd St, Harrisburg  
717-525-8077; fedlive.net

Nov. 1: Halloween Show  
Nov. 9: Troegs Moonlighter Music  
Mayhem  
Nov. 14: Lucero  
Nov. 15: Here Come the Mummies  
Nov. 23: River City Extension  
Nov. 27: Hot Jam Factory

**Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra**

The Forum at 5th and Walnut St.,  
Harrisburg;  
717-545-5527  
harrisburgsymphony.org

Nov. 9, 10: John Cage 4'33"

**HMAC/Stage on Herr**

1110 N. 3rd St. 268 Herr St.,  
Harrisburg  
717-441-7506; harrisburgarts.com

Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26: Karaoke  
Nov. 6: Open Mic  
Nov. 7, 13, 20, 27: Nate Myers  
Nov. 8: Molehill w/Manian and The  
Monumentals  
Nov. 9: The Dogs of Lust, Genders  
and Soaria  
Nov. 14: Strangest of Places  
Nov. 15: Tuckahoe Ridge w/Seldom  
Said No  
Nov. 16: The Dirty Sweet  
Nov. 17: The Great Socio  
Nov. 21: Mojo Flamenco  
Nov. 22: Shrimpboat  
Nov. 23: The Kilmaine Saints  
Nov. 29: Matt Otis and The Sound  
Nov. 30: The Blandinas, Rocket  
Brigade and Saddles of Centaur

**The LGBT Center of Central PA**

1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-920-9534  
centralpalgbtcenter.org

Nov. 15: Ginger Doss & Lynda Millard

**Market Square Concerts**

717-221-9599;  
marketsquareconcerts.org

Nov. 16: Parker Quartet

**Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café**

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

Nov. 2: Good News Café  
Nov. 14: John Gorka  
Nov. 15: Des Sera  
Nov. 16: Market Square Concerts  
Presents Fall into Fairy Tales  
Nov. 22: Spiderglass  
Nov. 23: Kites in Flight

**MoMo's BBQ & Grille**

307 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-230-1030  
momosbbqandgrill.com

Nov. 1: Skyla Burell  
Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26: Rhyne McCormick  
Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27: Open Mic  
Nov. 8: Chad Depaulo  
Nov. 15: Full House  
Nov. 22: Soul Esteem  
Nov. 30: Christopher Dean  
w/Nate Myers

**St. Thomas Roasters**

5951 Linglestown Rd., Linglestown  
717-526-4171; stthomasroasters.com

Nov. 2: Womack & Lowery  
Nov. 8: Coto  
Nov. 9: Joe Cooney  
Nov. 15: Ralph Dahl & Antonio  
Andrade  
Nov. 16: Just Dave  
Nov. 22: Sophia  
Nov. 23: Rayzen Kane  
Nov. 29: Relics of Medievalism  
Nov. 30: Channalia

**Suba Tapas Bar/Mangia Qui**

272 North St., Harrisburg  
717-233-7358; mangiaqui.com

Nov. 1: Keith Kenny  
Nov. 2: Rand Hubiak  
Nov. 8: Katy Glorioso  
Nov. 9: Margy Finnegan  
Nov. 15: Drew Kelly  
Nov. 16: Up Pops the Devil  
Nov. 22: Octavia Blues  
Nov. 23: Katie Kelly  
Nov. 29: Silver City Rodeo  
Nov. 30: Des Sera

**The Susquehanna Folk Music Society**

717-745-6577; sfmsfolk.org

Nov. 2: Jim Hurst (Fort Hunter)  
Nov. 9: Serbian dance Party  
(St. Nicholas Church)  
Nov. 10: Free Jam Session  
(Fort Hunter)  
Nov. 16: Fall Coffeehouse  
(Fort Hunter)  
Nov. 17: David Mromberg  
(Appalachian Brewing Co.)  
Nov. 24: Workshop  
w/Kevin Crawford

**Tomato Pie Café**

3950 TecPort Dr., Harrisburg;  
717-836-7051; tomatopiecafe.net

Nov. 9: Paul Zavinsky  
Nov. 16: Julie Moffitt  
Nov. 30: Jessica Halter

**Whitaker Center**

222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; whitakercenter.org

Nov. 2: Gordon Lightfoot  
Nov. 16: Parker Quartet  
Nov. 21: The Priests  
Nov. 23: The Mavericks  
Nov. 27: The Machine

**THE STAGE DOOR****2nd Street Comedy Club**

236 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-681-8012  
secondstreetcomedyclub.com

Nov. 1, 2: Alex Ortiz w/Gabe Kea  
Nov. 8, 9: Dereck Richards  
w/Ky Miller  
Nov. 15, 16: Dave Coulier  
w/Andy Beningo

**Christian Performing Arts Center**

1000 S. Eisenhower Blvd.,  
Middletown  
717-939-9333; hbg-cpac.org

Nov. 8-10: "The Crucible"

**Harrisburg Shakespeare Company**

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square,  
Harrisburg  
717-238-4111; gamutplays.org

Nov. 2-24: "Coriolanus"  
Nov. 30: "Holiday Memories"

**Hershey Theatre**

15 E. Carcas Ave., Hershey  
717-534-3405; hersheytheatre.com

Nov. 9: "Disney Junior Live On Tour!  
Pirate & Princess Adventure"  
Nov. 16: Gabriel Iglesias  
Nov. 22-24: Blue Man Group

**The LGBT Center of Central PA**

1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-920-9534  
centralpalgbtcenter.org

Nov. 1-10: "Whodunit"

**Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg**

915 S. York St., Mechanicsburg  
717-766-0535; ltmonline.net

Nov. 1, 2: "The Game's Afoot"

**Open Stage of Harrisburg**

223 Walnut St., Harrisburg  
717-232-OPEN; openstagehbg.com

Nov. 29-Dec. 29: "A Christmas  
Memory"

**Oyster Mill Playhouse**

1001 Oyster Mill Road, Camp Hill  
717-737-6768; oystermill.com

Nov. 8-24: "Annie Get Your Gun"

**Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut**

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square,  
Harrisburg  
717-238-4111; gamutplays.org

Nov. 6-23: "The Golden Goose"

**Whitaker Center**

222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; whitakercenter.org

Nov. 1: "The Rocky Horror  
Picture Show"



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FEATURED PROFILE | @CPR\_KLNYNG

# COOPER KLINEYOUNG

Cooper Klineyoung is a Harrisburg native currently residing in Midtown. A graduate of University of the Arts in Philadelphia and professional freelance photographer, Cooper currently works at Digiplex Destinations Camp Hill and teaches a photography class in Philadelphia. In his downtime, Cooper enjoys biking, rollerblading, exploring new places and relaxing with his friends and family.

### FAVORITE PHOTOGRAPHERS?

I have always been a big fan of Richard Avedon, David Graham, Arno Rafael Minkinen, Ian Ruhter and Robert Asman.

### INSPIRATION?

People and the things that they do are the most inspiring thing for me. Noticing little things in day to day also life keep my creative juices flowing. My peers and fellow artists have always been a great source of inspiration as well.

### ANY OTHER CREATIVE OUTLETS?

Music, movies, and other crafty activities (I just really enjoy making things).

### FAVORITE HANGOUTS IN HARRISBURG:

You can normally catch me at HMAC karaoke on Monday nights, or at Little Amps/Midtown Scholar in the mornings. I also love hanging out by the train yards and seeing all the great graffiti that passes through.



**J** JEREMY STRYKER  
**C** JSTRYKER19



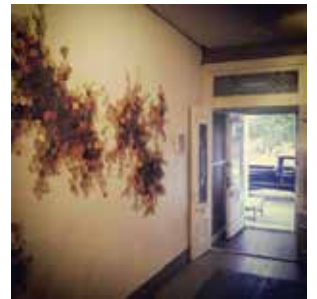
**B** BRIAN RITTERPUSCH  
**C** BRIAN\_RITTERPUSCH



**K** KELSIE PLANTE  
**C** KELSPANTE



**O** OFOLABI OYELOWO  
**C** AFOLABI7



**R** ROBERT GETTY  
**C** RGETTY3



**J** JAMES GORDEN POWELL  
**C** JPOWELL6991



**M** MELISSA BRYANT  
**C** MELLIRAE



**W** WILL DAVIS  
**C** WILLISDAVIS



**J** JOE ADIUTORI  
**C** BABYADIUTORI



**S** SHANNON STIFFLER  
**C** MISTER\_STIFFLER



**M** MEGAN DAVIS  
**C** HELLOMEGDAVIS



**T** TIM WEHNERT  
**C** PABIKENUT



**C** COOPER KLINEYOUNG  
**C** CPR\_KLNYNG



**K** KRISTIN SABADISH  
**C** KRISTINSABADISH



**L** LIZ LARIBEE  
**C** LIZLARIBEE

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*Pam & Lexi*

## WOOFSTOCK 2013

Dogs and their people scampered to Riverfront Park for WoofStock, the annual celebration of all things canine. A gorgeous day meant big crowds for the puppy love-in, which featured food, entertainment, auctions, contests and even an appearance by Jon Provost, who famously played Timmy on the 1950s-'60s TV show, "Lassie." In the spirit of WoofStock, peace and love ruled the dog day and, at last report, no one had fallen down a well.



*Sarah, Lisa & Ken Krause with Titan & Shayna*



*Christine & Jason Nauman with Asia*



*Brooke, Jillian, Nicole & Dozer*



*Annika & Kaitlyn with Kyla*

## ///////////////// SOCIALBURG / ON THE SCENE ///////////////////



*Alec & Rebecca Warren*



*Erica Streisfeld*



*Laurey Walker & Nichelle McLamb*



*Amanda Kime & Jake Mortimer*

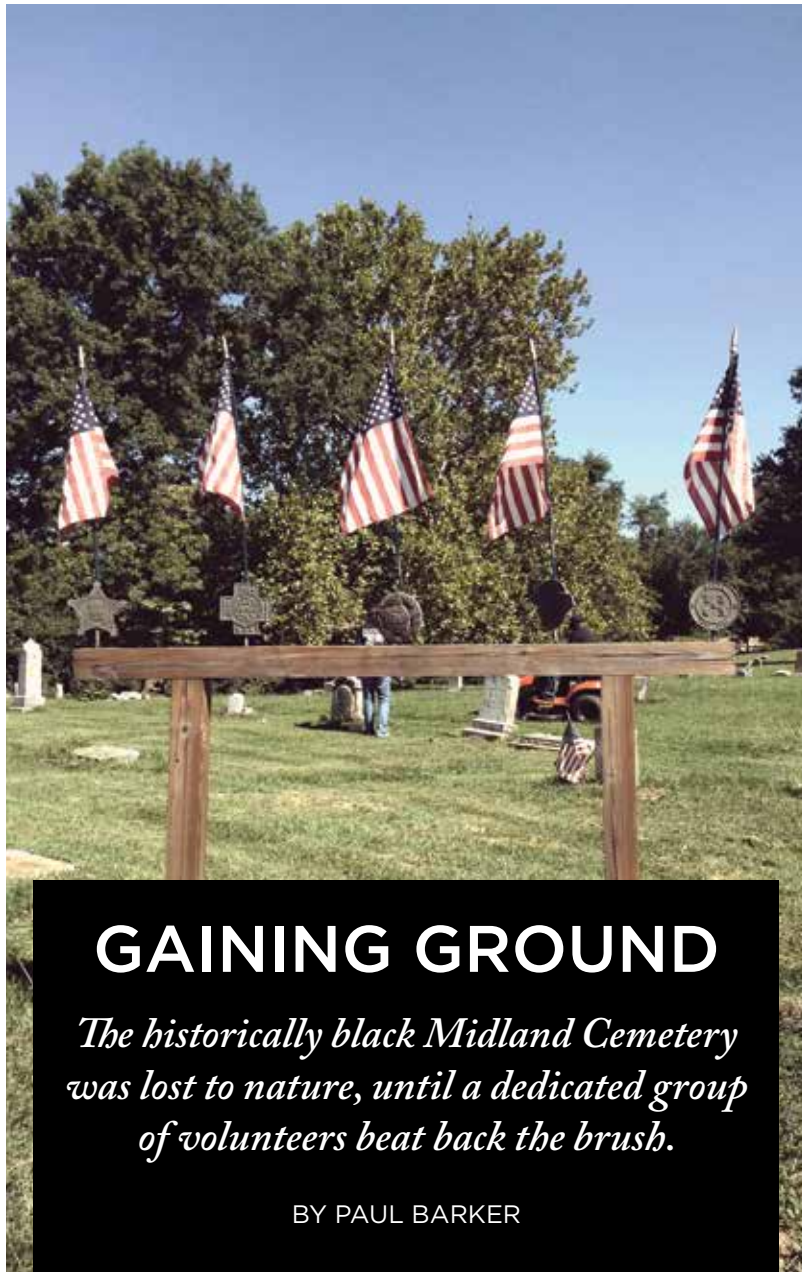
## HARRISBURG CUPCAKE CUP

Cupcakes were stacked, judged, and most importantly, devoured at the Harrisburg Cupcake Cup, held at the Abbey Bar at Appalachian Brewing Co. Taking home the honors for best overall cupcake were Carri Frank of Harrisburg in the professional division and Beth Merkel of York Springs in the amateur class. The fifth annual competition benefitted the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, with hundreds of attendees donating cash and non-perishable goods in exchange for tastes of the coveted confections.



*Mackenzie and Madison Simmons & Raya and Sanjay Samuel*





## GAINING GROUND

*The historically black Midland Cemetery was lost to nature, until a dedicated group of volunteers beat back the brush.*

BY PAUL BARKER

“In this cemetery, we have slaves,” said Barbara Barksdale. “Some who came off the ship, some who were born here.”

Barksdale was standing in the shade of a few trees near the entrance of the Midland Cemetery, a burial ground of six or so square blocks on the outskirts of Steelton. She wore gray sweatpants, a visor and a pink shirt that said “Cemetery Lady” over a woven insignia of a gravestone. She addressed a small crowd of volunteers, most of them employees of Capital Blue Cross, who had signed up for the United Way Day of Caring. It was early September.

“We also have Buffalo Soldiers,” she went on. “We also have Tuskegee Airmen. We have the men from World War I and World War II. We have a lot of our people who helped us start our area here, as far as the African-American communities. We have the slave who actually broke ground for the AME church that’s down on 2nd and Adams Street.”

To her right and left, over uneven land, stretched a few hundred graves and markers. Behind her, in a forested patch, were others, lost beneath weeds and trees.

Twenty years ago, the forest covered almost the entire cemetery. Barksdale, who is the president of Friends of Midland, a nonprofit she founded to restore the site, only knew the graves existed because of visits she had made as a child. “My parents would just park down at the bottom, across from that brown house over there, and then they would disappear into the woods to visit my grandfather,” she said. “I never knew and I still don’t know where he’s buried at.”

She recruited help from conservationists and local volunteers, and in a few years they managed to clear much of the overgrowth. But many of the headstones had sunken into the soil. Every year, with the help of an ancient map, she and her volunteers unearthed new gravesites. “It’s like a pimple on a face,” she said. “You keep on wiping

it, something’s gonna pop out.”

With a warning to “watch out for lumps and bumps,” the volunteers dispersed over the grounds. Some, equipped with a pry bar, set about wresting markers from the weeds and propping them up with bricks. Others mowed. A few slopped sealant into little plastic buckets and began coating the cemetery’s wooden fence in preparation for winter.

Barksdale stayed near the entrance, setting up lunch, and spoke with one of her regular helpers. “He’s a descendant of some people out here,” she said. “He has kinfolk.”

The man nodded. “I grew up right over the hill, not even three minutes walking distance, and I never knew this was here ‘til I started here with her. Never knew it.”

“I call him one of my revolving door inmates,” Barksdale confided as he walked off. Early in the cemetery’s restoration, she had seen inmates operating mowers near the county prison and had asked the warden to loan her some laborers. They had been coming every year since. Some, like that day’s helper, continued helping after they’d been released.

“When he first came out,” Barksdale said, “all this side was filled with stumps. And he would get down in the holes, and I said, ‘Twist it out like a tooth!’”

Midland is one of a network of cemeteries involved in the Hallowed Grounds Project, a statewide effort to recover the neglected burial sites of African Americans, particularly members of the United States Colored Troops. “The United States Colored Troops (USCT) were segregated in death as they were in life,” a recent pamphlet explained. “Until recently, their final resting places were vanishing from the landscape.”

A few weeks before September’s Day of Caring, Barksdale met with Lenwood Sloan in the offices of Jump Street, an arts-education nonprofit on N. Cameron Street and a partner in Hallowed Grounds. Sloan—a “jack of all trades,” Barksdale said—is one of the project’s organizers, as well as a driving force behind various heritage initiatives in the region. They were preparing for Hallowed Grounds’ annual public meeting in October.

Sloan described the dramatic extent to which some cemeteries had been forgotten. One had been covered by the parking lot of an Applebee’s in Reading; another was under a playground in Carlisle. “Sometimes, the cemetery is sliding down the hill due to erosion,” he said.

Sloan, who speaks with a resonant, preacherly baritone, has a knack for the lively phrase. He referred to physical labor as “sweat equity” and described the Hallowed Grounds network as “an affinity group, a connect-the-dots, a constellation of advocacy.” The October meeting, he said, was a chance for conservationists and caretakers to share best practices, identify labor and funding sources and swap resources like bricks and mulch. “It’s more like a family reunion than a conference,” he said.

On the Day of Caring, an hour into their work, a small group of volunteers discovered a stone submerged in the grass. As they dug it free, they saw it was connected to another stone—which was in turn connected to another.

“It kept going and going and going,” one volunteer said. “Then we all jumped in and—”

“Went for it!” someone concluded. Soon, they had exposed an entire stone boundary, perhaps 16 feet square. No corresponding headstone was found.

A little ways off, another group of volunteers reclined on a shallow slope and reflected on the outing. “I think it’s just neat that, you’re looking at the year they were born, the year that they died, and, back then, they didn’t live very long,” one of them reflected. She pointed at a nearby pair of stones. “That one, the wife was covered up completely.”

Barksdale paused at the entrance, where medals from the Civil War through the Korean War were affixed to a granite memorial. “It’s rewarding,” she said. “It’s fun, it’s beautiful. You can look around and say, well yeah, I did something here. This is part of my dash.”

Her dash?

“The dash,” she repeated. Barksdale, ever the Cemetery Lady, was invoking the image of a headstone. “You know. I’m born in the 1950s, I’ll die in, uh—3000 and something, maybe.” She grinned.

“And that little dash represents what I’m doing here. That’s your lifeline. You got it? That’s my dash. Part of my dash was being born, part of my dash is going to school, becoming a nurse, being a teacher, having children, having grandchildren—that’s part of my dash. You know, meeting you, part of my dash. Taking care of this cemetery. It’s part of my dash. You know? Doing reenacting. Part of my dash. So, like, what did you do with your life? Look at my dash.” **B**

*For more information about the Hallowed Grounds project, contact Barbara Barksdale at [mscmtyldy@aol.com](mailto:mscmtyldy@aol.com).*



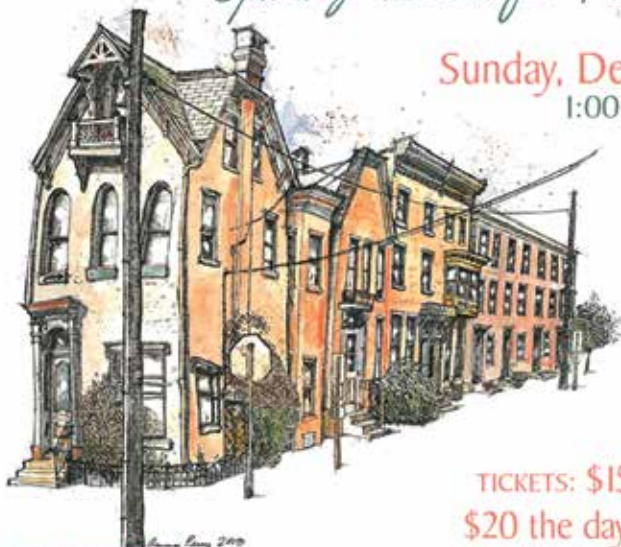
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## “COMPREHENSION TEST”

*Paul Barker on the Thompson administration's muddled effort to initiate an update to the city's comprehensive plan.*

There's wide agreement that Harrisburg needs a comprehensive plan. The city last commissioned one in 1974, and it hasn't been updated since; one of the receiver's early recommendations was to reboot it. And the sort of planning involved is not typically a subject of controversy. Communities broadly want the same things—good roads, good jobs, safe schools, clean parks—and the planning process should be an opportunity for shared dreams rather than discord.

Yet, when the mayor hosted the first of several public meetings, the process had already been polluted by the usual mix of skepticism, indifference, and squabbling . . . During public comment, Nevin Mindlin, the one-time independent candidate for mayor, lashed Thompson and her team for a lack of transparency and for failing to follow the planning code.

“A comprehensive plan is supposed to start with the governing body, which is City Council,” Mindlin said. “I would urge we take this to City Council and do this properly.” There had been talk of a steering committee, appointed by the mayor, that had already begun meeting with the consulting team. Mindlin, citing open-records law, demanded access to the names of its members and minutes from their meetings . . .

Why did this happen? An unfortunate hallmark of Thompson's mayoralty is that occasions that ought to be uncontroversial wind up generating ill will. In the case of the comprehensive plan, the trouble was a combination of vagaries, contradictions, and legal improvisations.

## “SAGE ADVICE”

*Lawrance Binda on Mayor Thompson's advice during the State of the City address that the next mayor should nurture his relationship with City Council.*

So, yes, Thompson offered excellent advice this morning: It is absolutely vital that the next mayor establish and nurture healthy relationships with council. How might he do that?

To start, the next mayor must attend every City Council meeting, even if it means just sitting there in the audience . . . Doing so, the mayor will learn so much: the airing of issues behind legislation; what makes various council members tick; the challenges members face; what the public cares about; which issues in the city are emerging that haven't yet hit the mayor's radar.

It would also would give the mayor valuable face time with council members, who, busy with their daytime jobs and lives, typically only see one another at meetings and see the mayor even less often.

Otherwise, the mayor should be respectful of council members and their positions, friendly, willing to give and take. He should keep his door and phone lines open and get to know their interests and concerns. He needs to regard them as a vital part of the Harrisburg community and the city's future.

The next mayor needs to build alliances on City Council, doing all the things that Thompson didn't begin to do until it was too late. Things that, just maybe, would have given her the second term that she's been denied.

## “WHAT PARTIES DO”

*Lawrance Binda on the predictable fate of independent Nevin Mindlin's candidacy once party operatives discovered an error in his nomination petition.*

Following a nomination deadline, the first thing party operatives and candidate supporters do is drive down to the county courthouse and examine the nomination papers of opponents. If they find an error, a challenge invariably ensues.

You may not like this; I don't like this. However, it's a basic fact of running for office in this country . . . Petition challenges have sunk several other would-be candidates, just in this town, just in this election cycle.

So, you can believe, as Mindlin does, that “moneyed interests” and “the established regime” are behind his ballot access woes. You can believe that Mindlin just made a mistake. You can believe that the Dauphin County Bureau of Elections gave him bum advice on filling out his petition.

But, really, it doesn't much matter. If you want to run for office, and a petition asks you to name a “committee to fill vacancies,” name one. When it says to file by a certain date, file by that date. When it states a residency requirement, make sure you meet it.

Know that, if you hope to be a candidate and don't follow the law's strict guidelines,

# BEST OF THE BURG BLOG

*Some highlights from our blog posts over the past month.  
Read the full posts at:*

WWW.THEBURGNEWS.COM

you will get challenged. Political pros and party operatives would consider it the height of malpractice not to challenge a petition when they're able. That's just what happens; that's just what they do.

## “FINANCIAL LESSON”

*Lawrance Binda on the sudden discovery by the Harrisburg School District of a large sum of money previously unaccounted for.*

Life in Harrisburg can be wonderful, but it also can be a test of one's temper.

The most recent smoke-from-the-ears news arrived last night, when Peggy Morningstar, the school district's new chief financial officer, told the school board that she may have unearthed about \$12 million that the district hadn't previously accounted for. This comes just months after yet another round of school tax increases and staff furloughs, in addition to salary cuts.

Shocking? Not really.

Last year, covering the school district's budget hearings, I was left scratching my head on how, over the course of a month, a threatened \$17 million budget deficit could just shrivel up and disappear . . .

At the time, I repeatedly asked school officials how this could happen. Yes, some of the extra money came from last-minute state aid, but that assistance flowed in only after school officials threatened the near-collapse of the system: no sports, no kindergarten, no extracurriculars. In my mind, the head-spinning financial reversal was never adequately explained, nor has it been explained in other years when this same pattern—massive, crippling deficits suddenly disappearing—has been repeated.

## “CAN OF CORN”

*Paul Barker on the first-ever Capitol All-Stars softball game between state legislators, held at Metro Bank Park on City Island.*

By the sixth, the Team West dugout, drunk on their lead and, perhaps, on the beer donated by Dick Yuengling, had started chanting. As Jerry Stern (Republican, H-80), the tourism chair, stepped up, Jeff Pyle (Republican, H-60) gave a yeasty rendition of the “Charge!” organ theme: “Na na na nah, na nahhh! Chair!”

[Jim] Christiana, who had come wearing eye black, spit sunflower seeds into the dirt.

It came time for Team West's captain, Speaker of the House Sam Smith (Republican, H-66), to slug. “Sam bats right, throws right and votes right,” [announcer John] Baer observed. Smith's roster stuck out of the back pocket of his jeans. He had not come to run. “Patience, patience,” Christiana advised. Smith tapped the ball into the pitcher's glove, tipped his hat to the crowd, took the roster out of his pocket and starting calling out positions for the seventh.

The game concluded in the seventh, after a diving catch from Christiana (“That was a trap!” someone in the crowd yelled. “Booo!”) and a last, uneventful at-bat from Team East. Greg Vitali (Democrat, H-166) ended the game on deck, his jersey tails dangling, as they had all game, past the ends of his rather suggestively cut shorts. “Someone tell Vitali to put some pants on,” Pyle said. It was the last comment this reporter heard before the final out.





## OPEN LETTER TO THE HARRISBURG COMMUNITY

Dear Fellow City Residents,

We are members of the business community in the Harrisburg region. All of us work in the city, many of us live here, and all of us have a stake in Harrisburg's future.

We have come together to promote good government in Harrisburg and to advocate for increased jobs, increased economic activity, better police and fire protection, better sanitation and other policies that strengthen our municipal finances and make our community a better place. Along with you, we have a huge stake in this City and that translates into a great concern for the City's leadership.

As you know, the City took a very important step forward recently in negotiating and approving the Harrisburg Strong Plan. With the help of a bi-partisan team that includes Receiver Bill Lynch, the Dauphin County Commissioners, Senator Rob Teplitz, Representative Patty Kim, and Mayor Linda Thompson, various stakeholders came together to craft a plan that dramatically reduces our debt and solves our fiscal crisis. Members of Harrisburg City Council voted 7-0 to approve the plan after receiving an independent review from an outside firm. And Judge Leadbetter, the plan's judicial overseer, has accepted and approved the plan.

All of these officials deserve our gratitude for working together in an example of how our political system is supposed to work – across political parties and levels of government – to solve tough problems.

While the plan is not perfect, it is the very good result of a two-year process of compromise and negotiation. All parties had to make significant sacrifices, but most importantly the plan allows Harrisburg to move forward into a brighter future.

The next Mayor of Harrisburg will now have the task of carrying out provisions of the Plan and moving our city forward. On this issue, the choice of that leader could not be clearer.

One candidate, Democrat Eric Papenfuse, has been a vocal advocate for the Harrisburg Strong Plan and a steady supporter of the process and officials involved in crafting the solution. He has consistently and effectively advocated for solving our fiscal problems through negotiation, compromise and leadership that listens. He will be an effective leader in carrying out the provisions of the plan and working with leaders at all levels of government to move Harrisburg forward. He will work to implement the plan for the benefit of all the citizens of our city and bring about the change we need.

The other candidate, Dan Miller, has opposed the Plan and engaged in an effort to thwart a negotiated solution in favor of placing Harrisburg into bankruptcy. Mr. Miller has even gone so far as to send out a campaign email trumpeting Detroit as a model city for jumping into bankruptcy, a fact that will cost that city millions of dollars for lawyers fees in a protracted and uncertain process. This would be the worst possible result for Harrisburg.

Recently, Mr. Miller has sought to intervene and object to the Harrisburg Strong Plan before Judge Leadbetter and delay the process of the city's recovery for personal political gain. How much additional delay in our recovery will Mr. Miller cause if he is elected Mayor? The Patriot News has called Dan Miller's actions "irresponsible demagoguery" that "yanks the city backwards" and "risks returning Harrisburg to years of paralysis."

Harrisburg is not Detroit, and if we implement the Harrisburg Strong Plan, we will not go bankrupt. By following the Plan, Harrisburg, in fact, will emerge as a stronger, better city than it has been in decades. We already have begun to solve our problems through cooperation and compromise, not litigation and bankruptcy. We cannot afford to go backwards. We must leave behind the past eight years of acrimony and opposition led by Mr. Miller and instead move forward with positive change for the city.

We hope that you will join us and come together in electing a new Mayor for Harrisburg: Mayor Eric Papenfuse. We love Harrisburg, like you do. Our community and city can be great again. We hope you will join us.

Harrisburg Capital PAC  
October 22, 2013

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, BE SURE TO VISIT [WWW.HBGCAPITALPAC.COM](http://WWW.HBGCAPITALPAC.COM).**





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ART ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG,  
21 N. FRONT ST. 9:30 AM-9 PM

BUDDHA BUDDHA, 400 N. 2ND ST. 4:30 PM-2 AM  
FENETRE GALLERY AT HACC, HACC MIDTOWN 2,  
N. 3RD & REILY ST. 6-8 PM

HOME GROWN MARKET, 1423 N. 3RD ST. 5-9 PM  
LGBT CENTER GALLERY, 1306 N. 3RD ST. 6-9 PM

LITTLE AMPS COFFEE ROASTERS, 1836 GREEN ST. 6-9 PM  
THE MAKESPACE, 1916 N. 3RD ST. 6-10 PM

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ST@RTUP, 1519 N. 3RD ST. 6-9 PM

UPTOWN POPUP/LAW OFFICE OF SHAMAINE DANIELS,  
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YELLOW BIRD CAFE, 1320 N. 3RD ST. 6-9 PM



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222 MARKET ST.

214.ARTS | WHITAKERCENTER.ORG

9:30 am-8 pm: Art reception.  
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**CITY HOUSE B&B**  
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903.2489 | CITYHOUSEBB.COM

6-9 pm: "Prints from the Earth"  
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Calderon's academic formation  
in anthropology, history and  
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**HISTORIC HARRISBURG  
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233.4646 | HISTORICHARRISBURG.COM

5-9 pm: "HACC ART Students  
Light up Harrisburg." Art Students  
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refreshments will be served.



**THE STATE MUSEUM**  
N. 3RD ST. (BETWEEN NORTH  
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787.4980 | STATEMUSEUMPA.ORG

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State Museum for the 2nd annual  
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236.1680 | MIDTOWNSCHOLAR.COM

12 pm: Coffee Education  
2 pm: Tea Tasting  
6 pm: Opening in the  
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Mickey McGarrity  
7 pm: TMI Improv Troupe  
8 pm: Comedy Night at the  
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106 STATE ST.

925.0337 | STUDIOGALLERYA.COM

6-10 pm: "Investigations in  
Nature," an exhibit by Dauphin  
artist John Holtzman, is a  
show of relief sculptures that  
focus on the deconstruction  
of specific forms within the  
landscape. His works will  
consist of framed wall-hangings  
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specific components in nature.  
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